

# 17 vote victory for Government in confidence challenge

The Government won its vote of confidence last night by 17 votes to 280, a majority of 17. But the debate, which was fought about by the 28-vote rejection on Wednesday night of the public spending White Paper, seemed to have

emphasized the division between the Administration and the Labour Party's left wing. Mr Healey, the Chancellor, told his party's rebel MPs that any repetition of Wednesday's action would be a surrender to Mrs Thatcher.

## Government refuses to change its economic policy

By Hugh Noyes  
Parliamentary Correspondent  
Westminster

After a tense debate the Government survived its vote of confidence last night by 17 votes. The division figures were 280 to 17. But, as the debate, precipitated by the 28-vote rejection on Wednesday night of the White Paper on public expenditure, ended Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer, seemed almost deliberately to be driving an ever wider wedge between the Government and the Labour left.

After last night it seemed impossible that relations could ever be quite the same between rebellious Tribune group MPs and the Government. At one point, during Mr Healey's winding-up Mr Russell Kerr, a leading member of the Tribune group, ostentatiously walked out, making a rude sign at the Chancellor as he crossed the Bar of the House.

Leaving Mr Wilson on their feet almost continuously, warring and protesting as Mr Healey angrily told them that to behave in such a way on any other occasion would be to surrender to Mrs Thatcher and the Conservative Party. What had happened on Wednesday night, he said, should be a lesson to the whole of the Labour movement.

As the debate ended Mr Eric Peffer, a leading left-winger, shouted what sounded like "scandalous" at the Chancellor and Mr Norman Buchanan, another of the rebellious left, rushed down to the government front bench to argue angrily with the Chancellor and the Prime Minister.

Some of the angriest reaction from the left came as Mr Healey turned members of the Tribune group and said: "No government can be government if it surrenders to blackmail. We cannot and will not surrender in this way."

Those who had thought it to take the action they took on Wednesday night must have been falsifying hopes of those in the trade union movement who had made it to help the Government and the country in the years. They expected members of the Parliamentary Labour Party would have the same loyalty to the Government.

Mr Wilson met the left head-on, daring them to the Government down. In

effect he told the still militant rebels in his ranks that there would be no backing down by the Government on its financial and economic programmes.

If they did not like his policies, they could withhold their support in the division and have a general election.

There was no disguising the anger of the Prime Minister at what he clearly considered to be a serious betrayal on a matter that was central to the whole economic and industrial strategy of the Government.

From the Tory front bench there was no mercy for Mr Wilson as Mrs Thatcher delivered a hard-hitting speech without even the preliminary courtesies of a birthday greeting to the Prime Minister, who was 60 yesterday.

She saw nothing from what Mr Wilson had said, or from the Government's economic performance, that would justify any vote of confidence.

From Mr Wilson's catalogue of his Government's achievements, she said, one would scarcely think that in less than two years nearly a third had been slashed off the value of the pound, that unemployment

had risen to levels to which it had never risen under a post-war Tory Government, or that they had borrowed anything like as much as this Government had borrowed.

On Wednesday night, Mrs Thatcher said, the Government was decisively defeated and its White Paper policy completely discredited. Mr Wilson had unwittingly revealed the wide gulf separating the two wings of the Labour Party. What he had was a coalition of socialists and near-Marxists.

He, and only he, was responsible for the failure to keep his party behind his own government. That was why he was so angry today, because it was his own failure that was the cause of the Government's predicament.

As the debate opened there was not a trace of appeasement from the Government Front Bench.

As the day's proceedings got under way, Mr Eric Heffer, one of the leading rebels, started to explain that those Labour MPs who had abstained were not well disposed to the Conservatives but had acted because the Government was pursuing

Conservative policies on public expenditure.

Mr Wilson replied scornfully: "It is always an arguable question about promiscuity whether you are more open to criticism for going into the bedroom or for being a lap dog outside the door."

Mr Mellish, the Government Chief Whip and the minister most personally aggrieved by the Labour revolt, became almost ecstatic at this public rebuke, loudly cheering the Prime Minister's words and waving his order paper. But it was soon evident that this was no flash in the pan from Mr Wilson.

As the debate proceeded he told MPs that, although for procedural reasons the vote would be on a motion to adjourn, "the House must understand that this is a vote of confidence in the Government's financial and economic policy."

No one in any part of the House should be in any doubt about what he is voting about tonight.

To make sure that the point had been well driven home, the Prime Minister later repeated that the Government was asking for a vote of confidence on its

financial and economic policies. The Government's defeat, he thundered, was the result of one of the most unholy alliances in the history of Parliament.

As the thunder clouds gathered over the heads of the rebels below the gangway, some of whom seemed to be turning almost purple with rage at Mr Wilson's comments, the Prime Minister went on to say that Wednesday night's alliance was made up of MPs who would not normally be seen dead with one another.

At one point, as Tory MPs began jeering at him, the Prime Minister rounded on them: "We are always hearing from the Conservatives about Marxists. They seem very pleased with their new alliance."

Conservatives, he went on, had always used that definition about the Tribune group and now they were welcoming them as their allies. Then, turning to his own benches, he added that some members of his party were entitled to be out of step with himself, the Labour Party conference and most trade unionists.

If that was how they felt, they had a right to sanctionification.

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A birthday smile from Mr Wilson, who was 60 yesterday, as he left home for work.

## Beirut military leader gives ultimatum to Lebanon President

Beirut, March 11.—The military commander of the Beirut area tonight declared a state of emergency, ordered an indefinite curfew and called on the Lebanese Government to resign within 24 hours.

General Adnan al-Khalid, speaking on television, also called on President Suleiman Franjeh to resign.

Reading out a 12-point statement, General al-Khalid insisted that he did not wish to take power himself. "I am not seeking to rule, nor do I support military rule," he said. Nevertheless, he gave Parliament only seven days to elect a new President, who would then name a new Government.

General al-Khalid also called on the military to "support the existing rule," backed an amnesty offered last night by General Hanna Saeed, the Army Commander, to Lebanese Army deserters who have taken over at least eight garrisons and posts this week, and ordered the armed forces to open fire immediately on anyone engaged in subversive activities.

Immediately after the general's statement heavy gunfire reverberated in west Beirut, with Muslims apparently shooting in the air to welcome his speech.

Earlier today Mr Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister, said he intended to resign because he was in despair over the latest crisis. He has already resigned once this year, but was persuaded to resume office.

"I became desperate in facing the hesitant and negative attitudes which makes me intend to take the last step which all of you know," he told journalists today.

Syrian mediators have been trying since the ceasefire on January 22 to persuade quarrelling politicians to agree on a new government, and their task will be vastly complicated if Mr Karami carries out his new threat.

The majority of mainly Muslim troops gathered momentum today. Two barracks were seized by dissidents in the Tripoli suburb of Qabbash and a third was taken in the southern town of Nabatiyah, about seven miles from the Israeli border.

In another violent incident, Colonel Abdul Majid Shehab, the Muslim military commander of north Lebanon, was shot dead at a roadblock as he was driving from Beirut to Tripoli through a mainly Christian area. Two officers following in a car behind escaped unhurt.

The identity of the assassins was not revealed. But the right-wing Phalangist news agency, giving its version of Colonel Shehab's death, said he was in a car which ignored a security roadblock erected by a local police-keeping force. Members of the group gave chase.

In Beirut, the right-wing National Liberal Party said its gunmen were now on full alert and were manning their old civil war front-line positions facing Muslim districts.—Reuter.

## Battle Abbey estate to be sold

By Gerald Ely

The Battle Abbey estate, near Hastings, which includes the site of the battle in which William defeated Harold in 1066, is due to come to auction in June, it was announced yesterday.

The offer includes Battle Abbey, which was founded to commemorate the battle. The present habitable part is let to Battle Abbey Girls School.

The sale is by the trustees of the Battle Abbey Settled Estate for the Webster family, who acquired it in 1719 and have held it ever since, except for a brief period of 43 years at the end of the last century.

The trustees, beneficiaries are Mrs Evelyn Webster, her two sons, Mr Geoffrey Webster and Mr Simon Harbord, and two grandsons.

In a statement yesterday the trustees gave the latest cost of maintenance, insurance, rates and other costs associated with such a property as the reason for the sale. In addition, they say, the taxation policies of the Government, including the capital transfer tax and proposed wealth tax, make it inevitable that the estate will have to be broken up within a few years.

The trustees, who say they regret that they can no longer maintain this important part of the history and national heritage of the country, have decided to sell while the estate still has the possibility of development in the right circumstances.

The estate covers about 573 acres, of which the battlefield accounts for about 100 acres. The estate also includes Powdermill House, a good eighteenth-century building, a Georgian house, and the fourteenth-century Pilgrim's Rest restaurant in Battle.

The lot portions of the property produce an income of about £4,108 a year and a buyer would also acquire three lordships of the manor. The sale is subject to existing tenancies.

Colonel G. R. Judd, of Strutt and Parker, who with Sir John Smith and Son, of Uckfield, are handling the sale, declined to give any estimate of the price expected. He said that the possibility of a foreign buyer could not be excluded and pointed out, among other possibilities, that the French have a great interest in the site.

Mr Brian Hubbard, head of the leisure management department of Strutt and Parker, said that to run the estate in the interests of the nation would require investment. A responsible buyer could run it that way profitably, but an irresponsible buyer could exploit it more profitably. "That is the danger," he said.

## Swapo rejects draft Namibia constitution

Windhoek, Namibia, March 11.—Namibia's main black nationalist movement, Swapo (South-West Africa People's Organisation) today rejected a draft constitution being studied by South Africa and the territory's tribal leaders, which had looked like satisfying both the United Nations and South Africa.

The draft, proposed by Chief Clements Kapuwo, leader of the Herero tribe, appeared to answer at once the United Nations demand for one-man-one-vote, the United Nations demand for separate administrative units for each ethnic group, as advocated by the South African Government.

But the Swapo information secretary, Mr Daniel Tjengere, said today that "if such a constitution were accepted (at the constitutional talks now taking place in Windhoek) and put to a referendum, Swapo would have two options—either to boycott it or to put forward a constitution of our own."

However, Swapo would accept elections by universal suffrage provided there was no attempt to divide the territory, he said.

Swapo is boycotting the Windhoek talks, attended by South African and tribal leaders of Namibia (South-West Africa), said today that "if such a constitution were accepted, it would be a betrayal of the struggle for independence."

Chief Kapuwo's draft, worked out with an American legal adviser, Mr Stuart Schwartz, calls for an elected 100-seat assembly divided into two houses. One house would represent the northern tribal homelands, with the exception of coastal Namibia. This would be included in the second house along with the southern territories, where nearly 100,000 whites live.

According to Mr Schwartz, neither house could act separately on its own. The idea of the two-house system was to ensure that no single ethnic group dominated the others, not to divide the territory in two.

Objecting to the two-house proposals, Mr Tjengere said Swapo would only participate in elections on a straightforward national basis. "We would win totally on that constitution," he said.

He said the two-house plan as part of a plot to perpetuate apartheid through "paper" leaders acting for South Africa.—Agence France-Presse.

## 32 death sentences in Nigerian coup trial

Lagos, March 11.—Thirty-two people implicated in a abortive coup in Nigeria on February 12, including Major-General I. D. Biala, the former Defence Commissioner, have been sentenced to death, the Federal Military Government announced today.

The 32 were to be executed immediately, a special press release said.

The alleged leader of the attempted coup, Lieutenant Colonel Bukar Dimka, was not listed among those four guilty. A court-martial, however, is to hear the hearing of his case was still under way.

The announcement said that 125 people had been arrested after the coup and that 40 of these had been released. Standard military and civil legal procedures had been adopted in trying those involved.

The press release said that witnesses were freely called upon and each defendant was given ample opportunity to cross-examine witnesses and to give evidence in any witness or refute any evidence against him.

An investigation panel was set up on the day of the attempted coup. The following day a military board of inquiry headed by General Emmanuel Aboye was set up to follow up the findings of the investigation panel.

Among the 32 people condemned to death was a civilian, Mr Abdulkarim Zakari, believed to be a relative of Mrs Victoria Gowon, the wife of General Yakubu Gowon, the ousted head of state.

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## Harsher threat of sentence

on his supporters to launch an immediate campaign of violence against targets in London. He was made by Eddie Gallagher, leader of the Irish Republican Army, when he was sentenced to 20 years in prison by a Special Criminal Court in Dublin on 20 September for what Mr Justice Fingleton described as an appalling crime.

**aretaker' Liberal**  
als should elect a caretaker leader, so long as a final choice is left to the party's only in September. Mr Paul Tyler, a former Liberal MP for Bodmin, said: "He suited Mr Grimond or Mr Richard Wainwright caretaker."

**art resignation call**  
ell Marten, Tory MP for Banbury, called for the resignation of Mr Peart, Minister of Culture. He said the minister had been told to accept a Commons motion criticising the EEC milk production regulation he knew ready been agreed in Brussels.

**ya expels Egyptians**  
Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, yesterday expelled the 3,000 Egyptians in return for the arrests of 37 Libyans in Cairo. The expulsion reflects a further deterioration in relations between the two countries, but a future is thought unlikely.

**scenity ruling**  
istributors cannot be prosecuted under section 1 of the Obscene Publications Act, ruled, because distributors do not "publish" films to audiences and therefore do not fall within the Act's scope.

**e accepted as miracle**  
covery of a Glasgow dock worker, from cancer has been recognized by the in the process of Canonization of a 19th-century Scottish martyr.

On freedom of the press: Editor of Woman's Own; On link between cancer and cancer, from Mr Howard; On tree planting: Dame Sylvia Crooke and Dr. Solheim.

Warlike on the first page in the National Planning; The Chairman (Globe); David Robinson on new in London; Alan Cornaby Reynolds on television.

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## Uruguay torture by Army alleged

Amnesty International have released what they say are the first photographs of torture ever to come into their hands. They purport to show two political prisoners being tortured by Uruguayan Army officers in a house in Montevideo.

**Plan to save Acropolis**  
The Greek Government announced yesterday that the sculptures on the Athens Acropolis must be encased in air-conditioned glass boxes to protect them from pollution. Experts said that carbon and sulphur dioxide, combined with rain, turned the marble to lime dust.

**\$50m loss on oil tanker**  
Olympic Bravery, the oil tanker insured for \$50m which ran aground off the French coast in January, has become the world's most expensive marine casualty. Experts say it is a total loss.

**Miners want special TUC**  
The executive of the National Union of Mine-workers voted to press the TUC to call a special congress to redefine the unions' attitude on employment, incomes policy and the general political situation.

**Army 'may help police'**  
The Army might be needed to help the police in fighting political terrorists, Sir Robert Mark, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, said yesterday. But he emphasized that such police-Army cooperation would be used only for short and limited objectives.

**Jail for Brighton fire**: An art student who set fire to the Royal Pavilion at Brighton was sentenced at Lewes Crown Court to six years imprisonment.

**European Parliament**: MPs in Strasbourg urge heads of government not to delay decision on direct elections.

**Moluccans**: Youth on trial for hijacking a train in Holland say they would do the same again.

**Falklands incident**: How British captain resisted demands by Argentine destroyer that opened fire.

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Sir Eric St. Johnston on the procedure of complaints against the police; Bernard Levin defines an intellectual  
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Racing: Reports and prospects of French and English meetings; Crick: West Indies score freely in Test; Rugby Union: Peter West comments on changes in county championship; Tennis: Increased Dwyer Cup prize money

## Sterling makes partial recovery as French franc faces new crisis

By Melvyn Westlake  
Economics Staff

As the pound staged a partial recovery on the world's foreign exchange markets yesterday, the French franc came under intense speculative pressure, which threatened once again to break up the European block of jointly floating currencies. The Bank of France was reported to have supported the franc on a "massive" scale.

In the face of persistent rumours, Mr Jean-Pierre Fourcade, the French Finance Minister, was forced to deny that he had any intention to close the foreign exchange markets or impose exchange controls. This followed reports in Paris banking circles that the monetary authorities were considering the possibility of reestablishing a dual foreign exchange market under which "commercial" exchange transactions would be separated from "financial" ones.

By contrast, sterling enjoyed its first rise against the dollar for a year, closing at \$2.33, up two cents. This reduced the loss in the past six working days to nine cents. It seemed, however, that the Bank of England may have had to provide a further \$200m of support yesterday in order partially to reverse the pound's recent decline. This is thought to have brought total support since the start of the rapid slide to about \$700m.

The partial recovery took place after the pound had taken a further buffeting yesterday morning, with stable selling on the Continent. This followed similar activity in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, and support for the pound in New York by the Bank of England.

Sterling appeared to draw some encouragement from statements yesterday by the Prime Minister in a radio broadcast that we are determined to maintain the value of sterling externally as we are to maintain the value of what sterling is worth internally.

The pound's problems exacerbated those of the French franc which has been weak for some time. Throughout yesterday the franc was pinned to its floor against the German mark within the eight-nation European floating block, threatening to break out of the mandatory margins within which participating currencies must fluctuate.

The circumstances of sterling's fall have been viewed with dark suspicion in Paris, and the franc's problems are being blamed on the Bank of England. Mr Fourcade said yesterday that sterling had caused problems for all other currencies.

French newspapers have accused Britain of "hoping to export its unemployment," and have asked if Mr Wilson may not be trying to break up the European floating block. Le Monde fears a "monetary war" with a race of competitive devaluations.

But prospects are better for travellers in the north where drivers at Knottingly, Bradford, Scarborough, Leeds and York were expected back from midnight after voting to return to work.

Aslef has accused British Rail regional officials of subjecting their members to "undue provocation". Mr Ray Buckton, general secretary of Aslef, will seek today a promise of discussion on the dispute at national level.

Disruption likely: Many Eastern Region commuters face a fifth day of disrupted travel today after drivers at King's Cross yesterday voted by a two-thirds majority against their executive's advice to return to work.

But prospects are better for travellers in the north where drivers at Knottingly, Bradford, Scarborough, Leeds and York were expected back from midnight after voting to return to work.

Drivers at most Eastern Region motive power depots had returned to work or have said that there would be a return from midnight, a British Rail representative said. But full services would not be introduced immediately because many trains and locomotives were in the wrong places.

Of the 76 depots in the region, 66 were either back at work by 5 pm last night or had reported that they would be back later in the night.

Only about a quarter of all suburban commuter trains are expected to run into King's Cross today.

Services into Liverpool Street and Fenchurch Street will not be affected.

The men at King's Cross decided to work for official union backing and to meet again at 10 am on Monday.

Peace talks in rail dispute as drivers at King's Cross vote against return to work

By Tim Jones  
Labour Staff

Members of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) are to meet the British Railways Board today for talks that will decide whether the union will consider further industrial action.

Yesterday both sides in the dispute, which has disrupted services on the Eastern Region, were preparing their case.

In the Commons Mr Foot, Secretary of State for Employment, appealed to the drivers to return to work. He said: "I hope very much that all drivers will follow the advice of their executive so that full services can be quickly resumed and the inconvenience to the public ended."

place after the pound had taken a further buffeting yesterday morning, with stable selling on the Continent. This followed similar activity in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore, and support for the pound in New York by the Bank of England.

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From Christopher Walker  
Dublin

As the gang who kidnapped Dr. Tiede Herrera, the Dutch industrialist, were sentenced at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday, Eddie Gallagher, their ringleader, called for an immediate campaign of violence against the British in England. He was sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment.

All four members of the gang were found guilty of the central charge relating to the kidnapping of Dr. Herrera and his wife, Lucia, in the last week of November last.

Outside his bowler hat, the last of the four was James J. Walsh, the other person involved in the council house siege at Monasterevin, was sentenced to 15 years and two other men, James J. Finney and Brian McGowan, were given eight years each.

There were angry scenes in the public gallery as friends and relatives screamed abuse at the court, particularly Mr Justice Fringe, the president,

who described the kidnapping as an "aggravated case."

Spentling from the heavily guarded dock, Mr Gallagher shouted:

"The key to an early British withdrawal is a willingness to a determined and concentrated campaign to force the rejected Government of England. We confident our comrades can achieve that if they have the courage of their convictions. . . . To my comrades, carry that fight to England and immediately."

Before the defendants were dragged from the dock reference was made to the letter bomb which was sent to Mr Justice Fringle on the eve of the trial. Mr Spentling observed:

"It will not be a letter bomb you will get next time." Mr Gallagher added: "You have been sentenced, Fringle."

Mr Gallagher, aged 28, and Mr Spentling, aged 21, were cleared of attempting to murder a detective.

The miners yesterday added their voice to the growing feeling inside the Labour movement for a reorganisation of the Trades Union Congress to chart a new economic path for the unions and the Government.

The executive of the National Union of Mineworkers decided without dissent to press the TUC to open a special conference to redefine the unions' attitude on employment, incomes policy and the general political situation.

Mr Joe Gormley, the NUM president, referred to the Government defeat in the Commons on Wednesday night. He castigated MPs in the *Tribune* group for not backing Mr Wilson. "If we want a different Government they should say so", he argued, adding that if the left-wing group consistently failed to support the Government Mr Wilson would have no option but to hold an early general election.

## Liberals 'should appoint caretaker leader'

Mr Paul Tyler, a former Liberal MP, called on the Parliamentary Liberal Party last night to elect a caretaker leader. He suggested as caretaker either Mr Jo Grimmond, MP for Orkney and Shetland, who preceded Mr Thorpe as leader, or Mr Richard Wainwright, MP for Colne Valley, and a former party chairman.

At the general election in February, 1974, Mr Tyler won Bodmin for the party from the Tories by nine votes after three recounts, only to lose it to the Conservatives.

Speaking at a party meeting in the Bodmin constituency, Mr Tyler, the Liberals' prospective parliamentary candidate, said that Mr Thorpe's leadership "had been distinguished and brilliant" but suggested that Mr Thorpe has frankly acknowledged the question mark that now hangs over his leadership.

Afterwards, Mr Tyler said: "I do not really think that in this particular case it would be sensible to be bounced into a sudden decision because of a lot of rumour and speculation.

"Mr Thorpe has agreed that he must face a leadership election with other candidates, and it is much better that until the new method of electing a leader has been approved by the party assembly in September we should have a caretaker leader."

Our Political Staff writes: A showdown between the warring factions in the Labour Party was predicted yesterday by Mr Grimond.

In a speech devoid of references to the Liberal Party, Mr Grimond remarked that Labour's right wing admitted that the state could not take more from the private sector without infringing freedom.

But much of the Labour Party is anxious to do all the things more and more government interference", he said.

"I foresee in the near future a turmoil in the Labour Party, which in any case has been deepened for a long time, and is aggravated by a serious economic crisis."

Speaking at Saddleworth, West Yorkshire, he added:

"We are already in such a crisis." If the national debt increased further, "we shall be faced either with default which would bring down our whole structure like a pack of cards, or with drastic reforms in the way we do things and a switch of resources to the productive and profitable sector."

Staff reporters write: "A leading newspaper yesterday issued an issue of the Africans newspaper *Die Burger*, criticized Mr. Wilson for his allegation that unofficial South African interests are behind a campaign to discredit the Government. The newspaper accused Mr. Wilson of making use of "a piece of counter-smearing."

The Prime Minister's accusation, the article said, "follows the cheap fashion among third-world leaders to smear the West and Africa to try to win a bad case with the mere contention that South Africa is associated with the other side."

It was the sort of remark one might expect from President Amin of Uganda, but not from the head of the United Kingdom Government.

The *Burger's* comment on the Thorpe affair is important because, the newspaper usually reflects government thinking, and its editor is close to Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister. The way of coming to the conclusion that Mr. Wilson's statement in the Commons was mendacious.

The newspaper said that "good South Africans" had a little reason to be fond of Mr. Thorpe or Mr. Peter Hain, the anti-apartheid Liberal president, and that the South African government did South Africa great harm and "if their politics go to pieces, we shall not prize gold."

But party leaders in Britain did not stand or fall because South Africans wished it. Mr. Wilson's words, said Mr. Hain, welcomed white hostility from South Africa, regarding it as a political asset.

"And now we are forced to suspect that to their great distress they would like to use it as life-line," the newspaper said. That they had got Mr. Wilson to play along with them was deplorable.

A warning that the Army might be needed to help fight political terrorists was given last night by Sir Robert Mark, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Asserting that his various civil liberties campaigners were "not a threat to the University that he wanted to protect," Sir Mark said "on a subject about which needless secrecy is more likely to provoke than all social disquiet."

He continued, the intent to which there was a "ought to be coexistence planning between the police and the Army" for certain limited purposes not involving "any kind of domination of civil liberty."

Sir Robert added: "Leave there has emerged a need for contingency plans for the possibility of terrorist actions which defensive armour, sophisticated weaponry and specialized training might mitigate."

Mr Justice May ordered yesterday that a girl of 14 who refused to give evidence against two youths, one accused of raping her and the other of attempted rape, be detained overnight. She was sent to a residential home.

The girl kept silent as questions about the alleged rape were put to her. The judge warned her repeatedly that she would be arrested and kept in custody if she continued to refuse to answer questions from the prosecution and counsel for the prosecution.

Mrs Marie Fawcett, a probation officer, said the girl was embarrassed by the situation.

The judge said he would be sitting this morning and hoped the girl would change her mind.

From Our Correspondent

King's Lynn

Disciplinary action is not just a matter of social workers involved in the case of Steven Meurs, who died after being starved by his mother, according to an inquiry report by Norfolk county councilors, published yesterday.

The child, aged 16 months, died of Starvation in 1975, after weighing just under 10lb, despite numerous visits to his home by welfare workers.

His mother, Mrs Sandra Meurs, was sentenced to three years at Norwich Crown Court last July after admitting manslaughter.

An independent verdict body, the Lord of Godfrey Goddard, criticized two Norfolk social service workers, Mrs Rosemary Floyd, aged 24, and her immediate superior, Mr Roger Carden, aged 34.

There was also criticism of an NSPCC inspector, Mr Harold Hardy, aged 61, and a health visitor, Mrs Lorna Lambert, 42.

Yesterday the Norfolk county Council subcommittee appointed to consider the review body's findings reported:

"After hearing the comments of the director of social services and members the subcommittee were unanimous in deciding that, though the review was not a criticism of the way certain social services staff involved in the Steven Meurs case, disciplinary action against any member of the staff is not justified."

"They took into account in particular the exceptional pressures under which the staff at King's Lynn were working at the time of the case, and the fact which the publicity has already adversely affected any individual member of the staff."

The subcommittee recommended that the most social services workers should be appointed in west Norfolk at a total cost of £39,000. It also recommended that an additional sum of £6,000 should be provided for greater use of child-minders on day-care for children, and for social workers to be at risk.

The report was considered yesterday by the county council's social services committee and will be discussed by the policy and resources committee.

The NSPCC has transferred its inspector, Mr Hardy, and Norfolk County Council has transferred its health visitor, Mrs Lambert, to a hospital for nursing training.

Additional aid : Social service departments have sought help in assisting on helping only those who were in real need, Mr Rex Johnson, a deputy director of social services for Lancashire, says in a report for the Association reports - "We should be more selective in our response", he said.

By Our Political Staff

Prospects for the passage of the Public Lending Rights Bill this session appeared to be gloomy yesterday after Mr. Short, the Lord President of the Council and Leader of the House of Commons, indicated that the night would be difficult in introducing the Bill in the legislative programme. There had been an attempt to gain agreement with the Conservatives to deal with the Bill in a second reading committee. But it now appears that common procedure cannot be agreed.

Bill would provide the authors with payment for the use made of their books through public libraries.

Continued from page 1.

But he appealed to them not to gully that sanctification by giving aid and comfort to the Tory opposition.

Reflecting the Government's anxiety over the reaction of the world money markets to doubts over the future of Labour economic policies, Mr Wilson said that the Government was anxious to demonstrate, in line with its concern to minimize monetary disturbance both domestically and internationally, to restore stable conditions by appropriately directed intervention.

It would continue to intervene to the extent necessary, and although the Prime Minister said it would be wrong for it to be seen to have any intervention techniques and intentions, the Government was prepared to assert its full deter-

Lord Waterston, which scolded at the time as "an old larcy." Mr Wilson gestured that he was now of the "arsenic and red card" type.

Hiccupping and hardy, That's all right, he said, as ter that if he got a confidence at the end of the debate that would confer upon him a funding, he would remain his own to the root of all evil, the Government's policies.

She pointed out that the rebels Mr Arthur had said that "We played the assistants opposition to one in aspect of government: the general economic that was now being followed by the Government." Renee Short, Mrs. T added, was quoted saying that the rebels

Street since last December when two people were held hostage for six days. He said the police have been dealing only with armed criminals and political terrorists who might be capable of posing only a limited threat.

The dangerous situations may arise in which, notwithstanding their training, courage, gallantry and thoroughness, policemen are unable to resolve them with minimum loss of life to the "Army."

Dismissing any notion of police or army attacks on political groups, Roberts said: "The only such change that could and should involve a reaction from either police or the Army is that attempted kidnappings, the case of the Army, protracted violence beyond the capacity of police

By Clifford Longley

**Religious Affairs Correspondent**

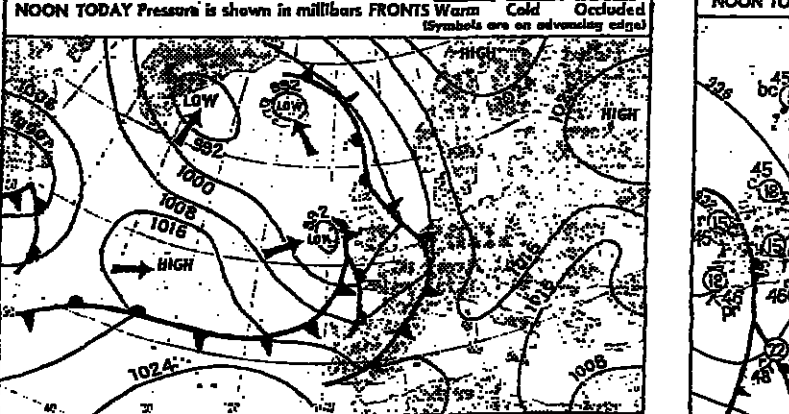
In an unprecedented gesture of friendliness, the Dean Chapter of Westminster Abbey have invited Abbot Basil H. Archbishop-elect of Westminster, John Charles, to assist at the service of consecration on 25, the day of his installation in Westminster Cathedral. The newly consecrated bishop will take part in singing of solemn responses and will be accompanied by Benedictine monks from monasteries in Britain and abroad, including the Angli-Benedictine monks of Nash. The service will be sung in traditional Latin.

The services will be presided over by the Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter, assisted by the Abbot Primate of the International Benedictine Order, the Rev. Richard Williamson, from Romsey, Hants. Westminster Abbey will be open to the public from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Plans for a £34m, two-acre leisure and entertainment complex, the biggest in Europe, were approved by Blackpool Corporation yesterday.

Mr David Steel, Liberal for Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles, has cancelled a two week tour of the United States because he is still recovering from a kidney stone operation.

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**Today**

|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Sun rises : 6:21 am  | Sun sets : 5:0 pm |
| Moon sets : Moon rises :   | 1:42 pm           |
| Full moon : 15.16.   |                   |
| Rising up : 6:30 pm to 5:49 am   |                   |
| High water : Lunden Bridge, 10.0<br>7.1m (18.7ft); 10.38 pm, 5.5m<br>(11.6ft)  |                   |
| Low water : 10.38 am, 5.0m<br>(10.4ft) 11.33 (am), 4.1 pm, 10.7m<br>(22.2ft). Dover, 7.4 am, 5.4m<br>(11.6ft) 11.33 (am), 4.1 pm, 10.7m<br>(22.2ft). |                   |
| Lune, 2.41 am, 5.7m (12.6ft); 2.59<br>pm, 5.0m (10.6ft). Portland, 7.48<br>am (25.0ft); 8.27 pm, 7.5m<br>(15.7ft).                                   |                   |

cloudy with rain at times; wind mainly S.E. moderate; max temp 7°C (44°F).

Central N., NW, Central S. Eng-land, Midlands, N. Wales, Isle of Man, Lake District, all hills, moor-lands, low lying patches soon clearing; then mainly dry and bright; wind becoming E, light; max temp 8°C (46°F).

Channel Islands, SW England, S. Wales : Bright with scattered clouds; wind mainly W, strong, rainy; wind mainly S, fresh; min temp 9°C (48°F).

N.W. Scotland, Glasgow, Belfast, County Down, County Londonderry, County Antrim, County Fermanagh, County Tyrone, County Donegal, Argyll : Bright intervals, occasional wintry showers; wind E, light; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Yester-  
day : London : T

Pressure is low to the SW of the British Isles.  
Precip: for 5 km to midnight:  
London, SE England, East Anglia: Cloudy with rain at night; becoming brighter; wind mainly E, light or moderate; max temp C (46°F).  
--- Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Mostly cloudy at first with rain in places and temp near normal; becoming colder and mainly dry with bright or sunny spells and overnight frost, but N and E districts may have wintry showers.

E. & NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen : Mostly Sea passages : S North Sea : Overseas sea routes : S. to Australia, Sch. to Canada, Pers. to India, S. to Finland, Fark.

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In those carefree days, the more your firm spent on a building the more successful it showed you were.

And with fuel and labour both cheap and plentiful, operating costs scarcely came into the calculations.

Today we're all a little wiser. Now it's cost-effectiveness that counts in building decisions. And among the most important factors is the use of energy throughout a building's life-span.

This is why it's wise to call in your Electricity Board when first formulating building projects.

Electricity's energy specialists can help you make objective evaluations of

the key options – structure, environmental standards, service systems – in relation to their energy requirements.

And the findings can help you achieve the most efficient, comfortable working environment for the optimum capital and running costs.

For practical information on all aspects of energy management, contact your Electricity Board. They have the know-how, experience, and specialised computer services to give you a balanced appraisal – both on the technical questions, and on the economics too.

# Manage efficiently with Electricity

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## NEWS

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Six years for arson  
at Royal Pavilion

Leonard Richard Kirzysowski, aged 23, an art student, who set fire to the Royal Pavilion, Brighton, after kicking in a window and pouring petrol into the 150-year-old music room, was sentenced at Lewes Crown Court, Sussex, yesterday to six years' imprisonment.

Mr Kirzysowski, of Waverley Crescent, Brighton, had pleaded guilty to setting fire to the building in the early hours of November 2 and pos- sessed petrol with intent to set fire to it.

He had appeared with David Burrett, aged 22, a seaman, of Plumpton Road, Brighton, who was found not guilty by the jury on the two charges, and was discharged.

Mr Anthony Scrivener, QC, for the defence, said that about 12 months ago Mr Kirzysowski had experimented with drugs and on one occasion took LSD. It was known that drug gave rise to reaction flashbacks and it was thought he had had one on the evening of the arson. He had

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given no explanation for his action, save that he was depressed and feeling anti-social.

Mr Justice Mars-Jones awarded Mr Osama Fahd, a Saudi Arabian student, who arrested Mr Kirzysowski after a chase, £100 for his prompt and courageous action.

Full restoration of the Royal Pavilion will take up to five years and cost probably between £185,000 and £200,000, Mr John Morley, director of the pavilion said yesterday. But inflation could push the cost higher.

A detailed insurance claim would be submitted shortly and he hoped to get a decision in about two months. Sufficient was known about the interior to make duplicates of the items damaged, he said.

Mr John Harris, curator of the drawings department at the Royal Institute of British Architects, said restoration would be prolonged and difficult. "The damage in the music room was one of the greatest losses we have had."

where the inquiry was being held in the absence of the public.

Reporting restrictions were lifted at yesterday's hearing, when Mr Burnhope was committed on bail for trial at Bradford Crown Court.

Mr Martin Read, for the defence, said he was concerned about the publicity and statements in the case, "even one from Mr Silkin, Minister for

Planning and Local Govern- ment, saying that Mr Tate (a security guard at the town hall) suffered cracked ribs and other injuries."

A statement from the Bradford clinical assistant who examined Mr Tate said he was treated with pain relievers and sent home, with the follow- up being left to his own doctor. He said the charges would be defended and denied.

More than any other wine region in France, Côtes du Rhône is the land of the long, strong summer sun. One of the finest parts is even called Côte-Rôtie, 'the Roasted Slopes'.

The Rhône vineyards fall into two distinct geographical areas.

In the north, on steep granite slopes, the vines produce predominantly light, fresh white wines. But also many strong, full-bodied reds. The best known of both, coming from the Hermitage area around Crozes and Tain.

In the south, the vines lie basking on sloped "beaches" of large pebbles, some of them the size of a man's fist, which reflect the heat of the sun's rays onto the vines. And at the same time protect what little moisture there is in the few inches of chalky soil which all vines seem to love.

The best known wines are Tavel, one of the great dry rosés of France, and the famous appellations of Gigondas, a full, robust wine, and Châteauneuf-du-Pape, which produces a perfumed white wine in addition to the great, rich, heady red wine.

Having received more ripening hours of sunshine, the young Rhône wines seem to enjoy longer in the barrel. Often they are not bottled for five years. During which time the juice from the grapes of as many as 13 different types of vine, all peculiar to the Rhône, may be used in their creation.

Few wines improve so much with laying down, as do those of the Côtes du Rhône.

Darkness and strength become depth and warmth. Forten years or more they will slowly reveal new subtleties and secrets. The whites become full, golden and luscious. The reds grow up into big, big wines. They fill your mouth in a way that invites you to chew them well before swallowing. They are soft and velvety, deep purple when young, a dull reddish-brown when mature, and they rarely have even a hint of acidity.

The Rhône Valley is one of France's largest producers of Appellation

Contrôle wines. The country's oldest and highest designation of fine wine.

The A.C. regulations ensure that age-old, proven methods are continued, and that traditional ways of replenishing, pruning, picking and ageing are not just maintained, but improved.

To achieve the coveted Appellation for its wine, a region must be blessed with certain things. A perfect combination of soil, climate and vine. And a vast store of experience on which to draw through all the traumas of this most exciting, but hazardous occupation.

The Appellation "Côtes du Rhône" refers to the wine of 130 or so communes which produce large quantities of fruity, moderately light, everyday wine.

Côtes du Rhône-Villages applies to 16 superior communes in the south, whose wines have a more defined character.

And there are 15 named growths, the finest of all. But however well bred, all Rhône wines share the same distinctive bouquet and a keeping quality. And inside every bottle there's a very big wine waiting to get out.

## Duke 'killed by cruelty' allegation at inquest

The Duke of Leinster, the premier peer of Ireland, who died in London on Monday aged 83, was "murdered by cruelty," it was alleged yesterday when the inquest opened at Westminster Coroner's Court. The allegation was made by Mr Michael Thornton, an author and a close friend of the duke.

Dr Gavin Thurston, Inner West London Coroner, said that the inquest would be adjourned for a week.

But Mr Thornton, aged 33, a trustee for the Duchess of Leinster, said: "I would like to say one thing. The Duke of Leinster was murdered. He was killed by cruelty."

The opening of the inquest into the death of the duke, who lived in a small flat in St George's Drive, Westminster, the duke's widow, who is stay- ing with friends in London, did not attend.

## Tory call for Mr Peart to resign

By George Clark  
Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Marten, Conserva- tive MP for Banbury, last night called for the resignation of Mr Peart, Minister of Agricul- ture.

He did so after it had been confirmed in the Commons that before its defeat on Wed- nesday night the Government had been prepared to accept an Opposition motion disap- proving the EEC regulations aimed at disposing of the big skimmed milk powder surplus in Europe.

At business questions, Mr Short, Leader of the House, astonished some MPs by saying the regulations were now part of the law of the land. "I am told these were part of the package agreed in Brussels," he said.

Decisions had already been taken, but if it was still the desire of the House to debate them he would try to arrange it.

Mr Marten said last night: "It is time for Mr Peart to re- sign. First he agreed to these regulations in Brussels, yet last night he was ready to accept our motion disagreeing with them."

The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday maintained that a wrong impression had been

What Mr Short said about the regulations already being the law of the land illustrates the complete lack of parliamen- tary control over these matters."

Those regulations, designed to encourage the use of skimmed milk powder in animal food, were ultra vires, according to eminent legal experts in Europe, Mr Marten said. "Under the Treaty of Rome the Community has no power to raise what is virtually taxation."

It is taxation because the price of the skimmed milk powder which the feed manu- facturers are going to be forced to put into feed in place of soya bean vegetable protein is four times as much as soya."

In the House Mr Lawrence Pevin, Labour MP for Brent, South, expressed amazement that a Commons debate would have made no difference; the regulations would still have come into effect, even though the Government and the House passed a motion disagreeing with them.

The Ministry of Agriculture yesterday maintained that a wrong impression had been

given in The Times that the Government had retreated in the face of a threatened attack from MPs on both sides of the House over the EEC scheme.

The ministry said the Government's motion to take note of the Commission's pro- posed regulations was not pro- ceeded with on Wednesday night because, after the public expenditure debate, the re- maining business of the House was put off.

But the scheme to encourage the incorporation of skim milk powder in animal feed was agreed by the Council of Min- isters last week and regulations would come into force in Britain on April 1.

Mr Francis Pym, Opposition spokesman on agriculture, said last night he was astonished by the ministry's statement that the Government had not given way to critics.

Mr Short had readily admitted the Government had decided to accept the Tory amendment to disapprove of the regulations. "The Government knew our amendment was sure to be carried if it had been put."

Parliamentary report, page 6

Tomatoes, already 40p a pound, will become even dearer next month and could cost between 50p and 60p, the National Federation of Fruit and Potato Trades said.

The high prices are likely to continue for several months, Mr Matthew Mark, the federa- tion's president said. Prices

are now 15 per cent higher than at this time last year.

Bacon prices are expected to drop by as much as 9p a pound next week after a record price slump at wholesale level yester- day. The average fall will be about 5p a pound.

But egg prices are going up this weekend by 2p a dozen for standard and medium sizes and 1p a dozen for large eggs.

Answering questions from the coroner, he said that in December, 1973, after a party in which she had taken "rather too much drink," she took an overdose of nembural, but he was with her and was able to take prompt action.

She received intensive care at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and later had psychia- tric treatment. Recently she had undergone electric shock treatment and was prescribed four tablets a day. She had suffered from depression for many years.

Mr Flach, who said he planned to marry Miss Bannister, spoke of their "wonderful relationship".

The inquest was adjourned to March 30.

## Tomatoes may be 50p a lb

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Mr Flach, who said he planned to marry Miss Bannister, spoke of their "wonderful relationship".

The inquest was adjourned to March 30.

## Lawyer who died 'was depressed for years'

Miss Jill Bannister, aged 30, the barrister, who was found dead in London flat on Tues- day, had been "hovering be- tween elation and depression" the previous night, Mr Robert Flach said at a St Pancras in- quest yesterday. She died at the home of Mr Flach, aged 53, a deputy circuit judge.

Mr Flach, of Myddelton Square, Clerkenwell, said he last saw Miss Bannister alive on Tuesday between midnight and 1 am. She had obviously been drinking "rather a lot".

The next morning he went to the basement flat where she had gone earlier and found the door locked. Later he became concerned, smashed a window and found her dead. In the flat he found notes and empty pill containers.

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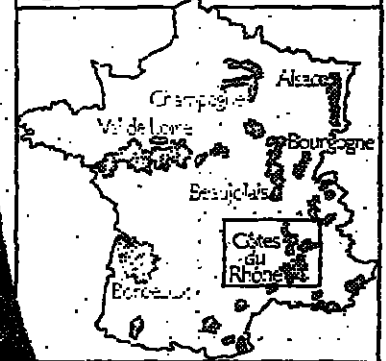
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**"Rhône wines develop from blackness and bitterness to roundness and warmth, to a heady smell, to a great softness and depth of flavour. In the north they are comparatively delicate, in the south sometimes downright enormous."**

Hugh Johnson, World Atlas of Wine. Mitchell Beazley.

APPELLATION  
CONTRÔLÉE



## HOME NEWS

## Low fares policy means higher rates

By Christopher Wazman  
A decision by the South Yorkshire Metropolitan Council to maintain its low bus fares policy is one of the main reasons for its showing the highest rate increase for the coming year among the six new metropolitan counties and the Greater London Council.

Only the GLC has managed to hold its fares steady at 17p, while South Yorkshire's increase for 1976-77 works out at 16 per cent, according to figures published in the *Local Government Chronicle* today.

The county's decision not to increase bus fares was taken in defiance of the Government's wishes. South Yorkshire's bus fares are among the lowest in Britain. A two-mile journey costs 6p, compared with 12p in West Yorkshire and Merseyside, and 16p in Glasgow.

The rate figures for the counties are: South Yorkshire, 24.5p in 1976-77, an increase of 16 per cent; Greater Manchester, 23.5p (9.3 per cent); West Midlands, 23p (5.5 per cent); Merseyside, 28p (3.7 per cent); West Yorkshire, 22p (3.3 per cent); and Wiltshire, 29p (1.8 per cent). No change in GLC fares.

Increases in rates levied by Scottish regional councils, also collated in the *Local Government Chronicle*, are shown to be considerably higher than in England and Wales.

The 1975-76 rates were levied only for a 101-month period, so that the Scottish municipal financial year could be aligned with that of England and Wales, while the new rates cover the usual 12 months.

The Scottish figures are: Highland, 112p in 1976-77, an increase of 32 per cent; Borders, 117p (24 per cent); Central, 110p (22 per cent); Dumfries and Galloway, 107p (21.6 per cent); Grampian, 108p (20 per cent); Tayside, 107p (15 per cent); Strathclyde, 111p (14 per cent); and Lothian, 116p (7 per cent).

The figures in the Scottish table do not take into account district and water charges.

## Man cleared of burglary with intent to rape

Philip Stapleton, aged 31, a barman, who claimed he was given an "open invitation to sex" in her bedroom, was cleared by the Crown Court yesterday of burglary of the girl's flat with intent to rape.

Mr Stapleton, of South End Close, Hampstead, London, was freed from his 27-month jail sentence, his conviction being quashed, because his defence that he honestly believed she wanted sexual intercourse was never put to the jury at his trial at the Central Criminal Court. The jury, on September 26 last, had acquitted Mr Stapleton of rape, but convicted him on the burglary with intent charge.

Lord Justice Geoffrey Lane said the trial judge, Judge Abella, should have directed the jury that it was not enough for the Crown simply to prove Mr Stapleton a trespasser. They had to prove that he was fully aware that he had no business to be in the flat.

## Belfast boy 'lacked a regard for human life'

A Belfast boy, aged 16, had grown up without a mature regard for the sanctity of human life because of the violence he had seen and heard about, Dr Peter Woolf, a psychiatrist, said at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Dr Woolf said that the boy, a Roman Catholic, charged with the murder of his Protestant brother-in-law in south London, had not learnt the Commandment, Thou Shalt Not Kill, as an important one.

The boy admitted shooting his brother-in-law, Frederick Horner, aged 23, through the head with a revolver at 11:40pm on March 10, at 114, Maryon Road, Charlton, south London, last September.

He denied murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility. He has said in evidence that his mother had sent him to stay at the Charlton flat with his sister and brother-in-law to escape reprisals for giving evidence in Belfast.

## Universities get bigger grant, with cash limit

By Tim Devlin  
Education Correspondent

Universities are to get £581m in recurrent grant to cover day-to-day running expenses in the academic year 1976-77, not for the first time they will not get any supplement to compensate for inflation.

That was announced yesterday in a parliamentary written reply by Mr Mulvey, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

"For the first time this year the recurrent grant, in common with three quarters of all central government expenditure other than social security benefits, will be treated as a cash limit which will not be subject to supplementation for academic or other salary or price rises," he said.

However, if the rate of inflation turns out to be much higher than expected the Government would have to "take account of the possibilities in the light of all the circumstances of the time".

For the academic year which started last September the universities received £445m. This was topped up by a supplementary grant of £53m. So, in crude terms, the new grant represents an increase of 11 per cent.

University vice-chancellors

were unable to say yesterday whether they would be better or worse off.

Sir Arthur Armitage, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University and chairman of the vice-chancellors' committee, said: "This is a settlement made in the light of the country's economic situation, but it is one which we hope will permit us to sustain our essential commitments and maintain the core of the country's degree system."

There were serious implications for universities in the cash limits, he added. But they would do their best to maintain the present level of education opportunity. The total number of university students was expected to increase to about 273,000 next year, 10,000 more than this year.

A poll by *The Times Higher Education Supplement* published today found that most members of the Association of University Teachers (AUT) will vote to affiliate to the Trades Union Congress. Fifty-one per cent of those who have already voted in the AUT's ballot on the subject said they were in favour of affiliation and 35 per cent said they were against. The poll result is based on 44 per cent of a total sample of 501 interviews.

## Go-ahead on contract approved by doctors

By John Roper  
Medical Reporter

Junior hospital doctors yesterday approved the draft of a Department of Health circular which will authorize all hospital authorities to complete the new contracts with junior medical staff.

Dr David Wardle, chairman of the Hospital Junior Staffs Committee, said he hoped all hospital authorities would act to put the circular into force. They would have it today and there could be no reason for delay.

Moves to renew industrial action have been made because of delay in implementing the new contract. Every junior doctor will have an individual contract involving consultations with the consultants concerned and the employing authorities about work patterns and hours.

Dr Wardle said some reports said employing authorities were cutting down, for financial reasons, the hours that consultants and juniors had agreed were necessary. Cutting down on a realistic assessment by doctors of the hours they need to work to do the job could have serious repercussions on the National Health Service, he said.

In some areas hospital authorities have agreed new contracts with three fifths of junior doctors but because agreement had not been reached with the rest they refused to begin payments.

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said in the Commons this week that the Department of Health and Social Security was doing everything possible to overcome delays.

## Labour rift in Scotland to get public airing

From David Leigh  
Edinburgh

The splits in the battered and anxious Labour movement in Scotland over devolution are likely to be discussed at the Scottish party conference, which starts at Troon on March 26.

An amendment put forward for debate by the Rosburgh, Selkirk and Peebles party, says: "The executive should take a more realistic look at the interests of the party in Scotland and a more sympathetic view of the new Scottish Labour Party in the stand it has taken on devolution and the Government's White Paper."

The Labour Party organization, which hopes for a reconciliation with the breakaway party, is looking forward to a conference from Mr Ronald Haywood, general secretary of the Labour Party, at the Troon conference, of more autonomy for the Scottish section of the party.

"That, coupled with a ringing statement of the need for Labour unity in Scotland, it is hoped will save the day for party morale."

The Scottish Council of the Labour Party said yesterday: "The Labour Party has achieved success or not, but so long as it remains, it will cause confusion among the electors and a threat to the British Labour Party. Its activities can only assist the opponents of Labour."

The council added: "This is the most testing time that the Scottish council has had to face. Finances have become dangerously run down and generous donations are needed from party members."

The turmoil over devolution has to be resolved this month. So far, matters have gone



The Taylor String Quartet, from Michigan, practising at Wignmore Hall yesterday before their London debut. At the piano is Professor Morris Taylor, father of (from left) Lyndon, Leonard, Lowell and Lucille.

## Devolution plan 'not understood'

By Our Political Staff

The White Paper on devolution was badly drafted and led to over-emphasis on the negative aspects and a misunderstanding of the role proposed for the Secretary of State for Scotland, Scottish Labour MPs said yesterday.

In a submission to the Government, they said that more emphasis should have been put on the advantages arising from having control in Scotland of the powers to be devolved.

Tasks allocated to the Secretary of State should be reallocated so that he would not have power to intervene in the legislation of the assembly or in the policies of the Scottish executive.

"There is no need for an explicit veto or policy grounds, since the Westminster parliament is constitutionally supreme and can at any time legislate on any Scottish subject," the MPs stated.

"This also covers the powers of the United Kingdom Government to intervene in the policies of the Scottish executive. Any new policy will, in time, require either money or legislation and in this case Westminster's legal supremacy is a sufficient safeguard." Questions of veto could best be settled by a judicial body.

"It would be both unsatisfactory in practice and politically dangerous if the assembly did not have a role to play in the key question of industry and employment in Scotland," the MPs argued.

Major decisions on industry with a United Kingdom-wide impact should be taken by the United Kingdom Government, and for these purposes the Secretary of State should retain some economic powers and remain in this sense Scotland's Cabinet.

"The Scottish electorate should be brought face to face with the fact that if better or more extensive services are wanted they have to be paid for by increased taxation," the MPs submitted.

"For this purpose, the sole taxing power of a surcharge on rates is quite unacceptable. Our view would therefore be that the rates at which several taxes would be levied in Scotland should be adjustable by the assembly, with the yield from any variation from United Kingdom rates being added to or subtracted from the block grant."

Minister hopes rebel MPs will return

By Our Political Staff

The two MPs who left the Labour Party in Scotland over the plan to "other" devolution proposals, were told today by Mr Short, minister in charge of devolution proposals, that he still regards them as colleagues.

"I regret very much that they have gone out into the wilderness, but I hope they will return," Mr Short, Lord President of the Council, said in an interview in *Labour Weekly*, the party's newspaper.

The interview undoubtedly took place several days ago. Yesterday the minister was probably taking a different view of the activities of Mr James Sillars, MP for Argyshire, South, and Mr John Robertson, MP for Paisley. On Wednesday night both MPs voted against the motion on the public expenditure White Paper and helped to defeat the Government.

The two MPs, who are founders of the breakaway Scottish Labour Party, want greater devolution for Scotland. But Labour MPs who oppose the plan are "other" reasons are urged by Mr Short to toe the line when the devolution Bill is brought in.

Any Labour MP who votes against the Bill is voting against a clearly given undertaking to manifest his support, and is in fact dishonouring his promises," Mr Short writes.

The minister sees neither prospect nor need for a referendum on the issue. The devolution proposals had been clearly set out in the party's manifestos for the 1974 elections and the Government had a mandate for its plans, he adds.

Mr Short gives no indication that the Government is intending to change its mind on any of the main proposals outlined in the White Paper.

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## Fears about future of parcels service

By Ronald Embley  
Business News Staff

Fears about the future of the Post Office's parcel service were expressed yesterday by Lord Peadar, chairman of the Post Office Users' National Council, and Mr Tom Jackson, general secretary of the Union of Post Office Workers.

Lord Peadar said the council had received from the management "no positive assurance that the parcel service would be permanently retained as a part of the Post Office operation." Mr Jackson said: "His members were fearful that the Post Office 'had lost all interest in the parcel service'."

Lord Peadar was introducing a council report which opposes Post Office plans to increase parcel and letter packet rates by a quarter from April 26. The report says the rise, the third in 13 months, would increase price for parcels services by 145 per cent and in some cases by 160 per cent.

The council has recommended that the increases be postponed for six months and that in the intervening period the Post Office should discuss with the large parcels service customers what might be done "to produce practical plans that would increase volume and lower operational unit costs."

The council's report is scathing about what it says is the Post Office's lack of co-operation. It says the Post Office refused to give estimates of the effect on parcel traffic and finances of last year's price rises of nearly 100 per cent.

The information was refused on the ground "that it was commercially confidential." Lord Peadar said it was the first such refusal from the management, but it meant that the council was "working in the dark."

Mr Jackson described the council's report as a compromise but he agreed with Lord Peadar that the Post Office should be trying to increase the volume of parcels handled rather than increasing prices.

The report has been sent to the Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, and to Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry. The Post Office said last night that it regretted the council was opposed to the parcel pricing proposals. It added: "The Post Office must pay its way, and aim which the council itself proposed in 1974-75, to increase its income by £60m on an income of £60m."

Those who used the service, other postal services, or the taxpayer must meet that cost.

## Constituency borders to be reviewed

By Our Political Staff

Parliamentary constituencies in England and Northern Ireland are to be scrutinized again by parliamentary boundary commissions, which will recommend a redistribution of seats in the next general election. The review, completed in 1969, took four years.

The commission will not be able to finish its work before the planned date for the holding of direct elections to the European Parliament, in 1978, but its recommendations will be helpful in the complicated task of drawing up the special, larger, constituencies for the Euro elections.

The commission, under the chairmanship of the Speaker, the Hon. Sir Kenneth Robinson, will publish provisional recommendations for each constituency after a local inquiry may be held. Final proposals, possibly a final round of inquiries, will be presented to Parliament as a draft Order in Council.

Announcements are expected of similar reviews in Scotland and Wales. The report on Scotland should be published in 1980 and 1981, while in Wales it will appear in 1979.

The disparities in the size of constituencies are exemplified by the fact that while average constituency in England in 1975 had 55,418 electors, Meriden had 59,459.

North Down, Ireland, the smallest constituency, had 21,313 voters.

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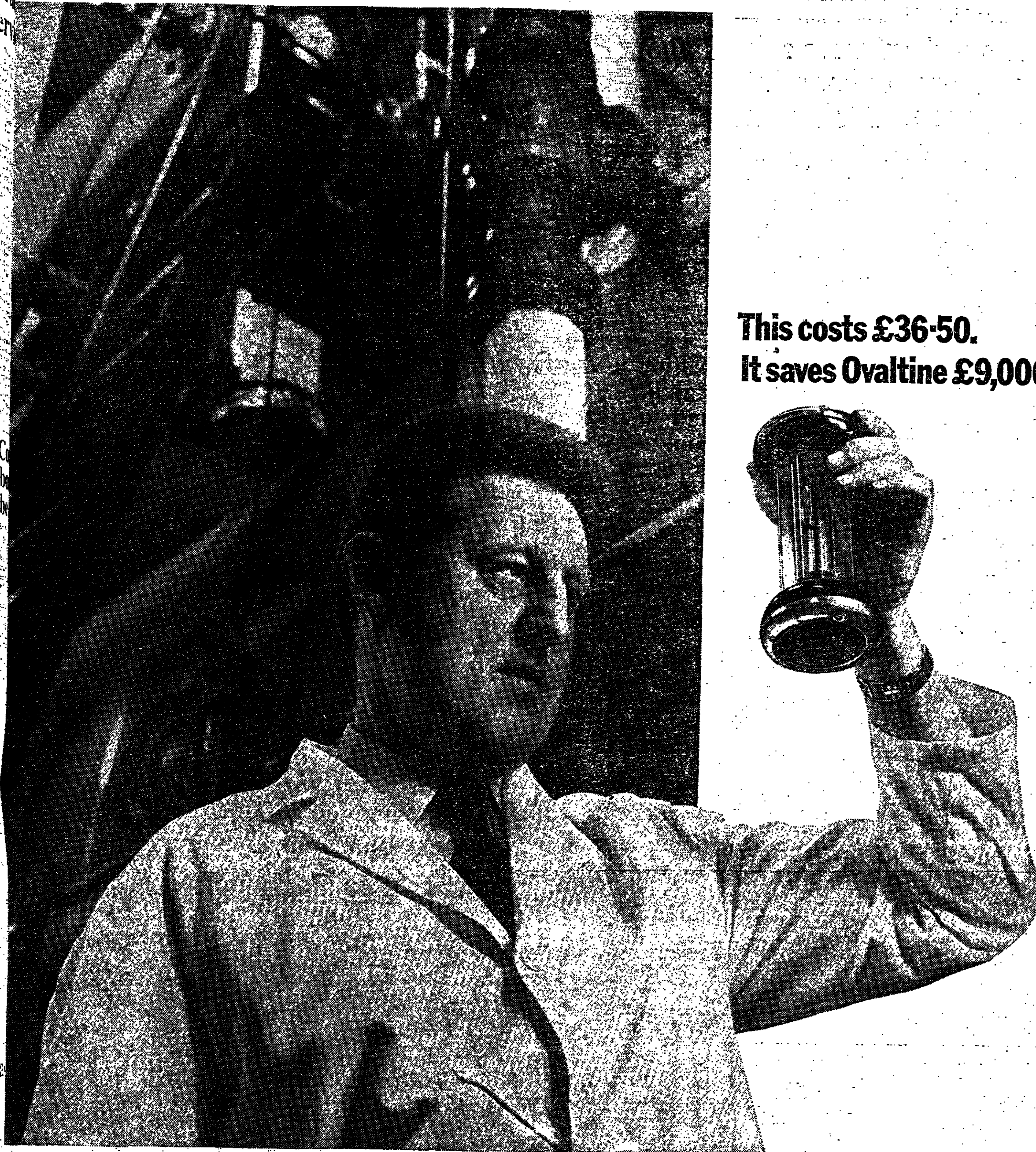
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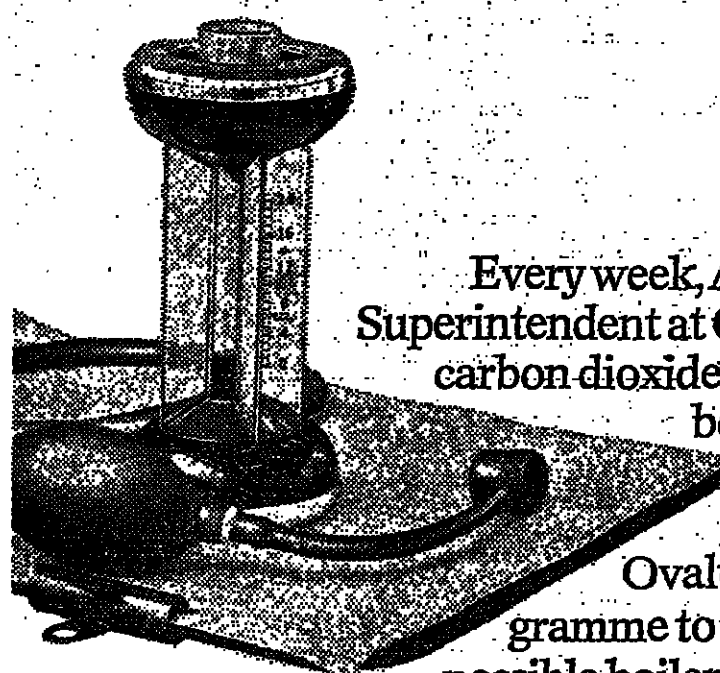
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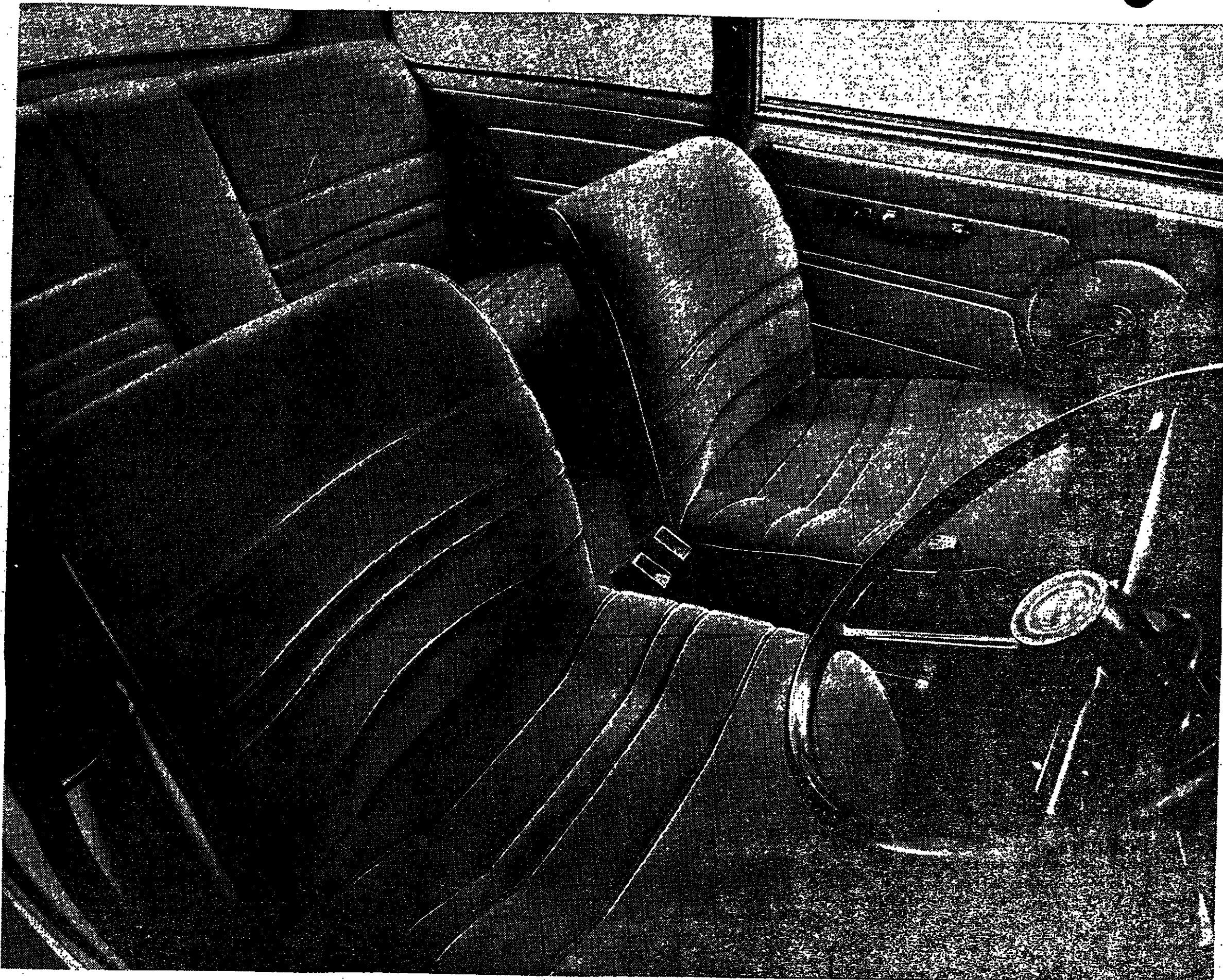
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## WEST EUROPE

## European MPs urge heads of government not to delay their decision on elections in 1978

From Michael Hornsby  
Strasbourg, March 11

European MPs today called on EEC heads of government, at their meeting in Luxembourg on April 1 and 2, to take "the final decision allowing for elections to the European Parliament by direct universal suffrage in 1978".

Adopting a resolution jointly tabled by the Socialist, Christian Democratic, Liberal and Conservative groups, the Parliament also urged that the heads of Government should base their decision on the proposals submitted to the Council of Ministers last year.

These envisage the enlargement of the Parliament from 198 to 355 members, who would be directly elected instead of being nominated as at present. Initially, each EEC country would use its own system of voting in electing its members to the Assembly.

The decision to hold today's debate and vote, in place of a scheduled discussion of the "findings" report on European unity, was taken earlier this week amid growing concern among MPs that heads of government may seek to postpone a final decision on direct elections, which they promised

to take at their last meeting in Rome in December.

After their meeting next month, the heads of government are not due to meet again until July. Failure to take a decision in April could jeopardize the whole timetable for direct elections. Mr. Schelte Patijn, the Dutch Socialist who drafted the Parliament's proposals, warned his fellow MPs.

Intended to instil a sense of urgency into the heads of government, today's debate also revealed sharp divisions of opinion within the Parliament itself on direct elections. This, in turn, reflected differences between EEC's member states, some of which fear that direct elections will erode national independence.

The House was never more, and usually much less, than half full throughout the debate. The Gaullists and French and Italian Communists, who were united (though for different reasons) in opposing current proposals for direct elections, were the only group to speak before a vote was taken.

Labour party's contingent abstained. Some, like Mr. Mark Hughes (Durham), said afterwards that their abstentions did not indicate opposition to direct elections as such, but merely

their desire not to preempt the adoption of a formal position by the British Government.

Other Labour MPs, however, such as Mr. John Evans (Newtown), made it clear that they were opposed to direct elections as early as 1978. The first task, they felt, was gradually to increase the Parliament's powers. Apart from a small say in budgetary matters, these do not at present extend beyond the right to be consulted.

Most other Socialists, as well as Conservatives and Christian Democrats, argued the contrary case: that only with the democratic legitimacy conferred by direct elections would the Parliament be in a position to press for an expansion of its prerogatives.

MPs of this view were particularly concerned that the heads of government should not be allowed to exploit legal technicalities of the dispute over the distribution of seats in the assembly as a pretext for putting off a decision when they meet in April.

There was general agreement that the distribution of seats should reflect the population strengths of member states as far as possible, and that the Parliament should have more than 400 members. Parliamentary report, page 6

## Solzhenitsyn broadcast stirs Soviet anger

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, March 10

The Soviet Embassy in Paris has expressed its indignation at the broadcast of Alexander Solzhenitsyn, the Russian writer who has been allowed to express his "hateful criticisms" on French state television.

In a note made public in Paris last night, 24 hours after the broadcast, the Russians said the French Government, that such an appearance was hardly compatible with developing the mutual respect and friendship between the two governments had set themselves to achieve.

It has emerged that before the broadcast an embassy official called at the foreign ministry objecting to Mr. Solzhenitsyn's appearance after the BBC Panorama programme earlier this month. The Soviet note immediately brought a reaction from Mr. Roger Chénaut, parliamentary leader of the Independent Republicans, President Giscard d'Estaing's own party, who protested against a "clear act of interference" in France's internal affairs. Communists throughout the world, he said, felt a constant need to prevent the "explosion of the truth".

Alexander Solzhenitsyn repeated to the French his message that the West must stand firm against the Soviet Union if it is to be true to its own spiritual values.

Unlike the BBC Panorama programme, the French broadcast was a solo performance. The Russian writer, aided only by an interpreter, was answering questions live for 90 minutes as they were telephoned by viewers.

He told them he felt he was living in the West "as a captive". When asked if he would be going back to the Soviet Union, he replied that he would have the feeling of having returned when *The Gulag Archipelago*, his work on Soviet labour camps, "can be read and published in the Soviet Union".

Mr. Solzhenitsyn talked after a showing of the film *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, based on his novel on his camp experiences.

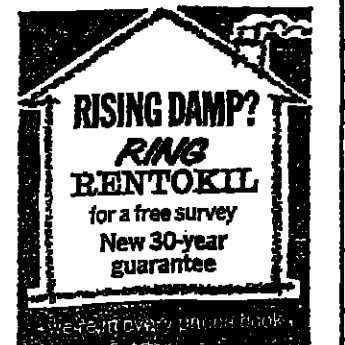
When some viewers telephoned to protest against his anti-communism, Mr. Solzhenitsyn said that the subject was great human suffering under the Soviet system. "We are men and wish to live like men and not as slaves as in the camps we have just seen. These show an anti-human image because communism is anti-human."

He rebuked Mr. Leonid Plyushch, the Soviet mathematician who recently came to live in France, for declaring that he remained a communist though condemning the present regime. He should not have made statements before he had studied these problems," Mr. Solzhenitsyn said.

M. Jacques Soustelle, the former Gaullist minister, said yesterday that he had been profoundly moved by Mr. Solzhenitsyn. "Our democracies need this bleak and salutary truth." Leading article, page 15

## Smugglers hid hashish in vermicelli cargo

Brussels, March 11.—Six men were given prison sentences of up to five years here today for smuggling 440lb of hashish from Pakistan into Belgium in containers of candles, raisins and vermicelli.—Reuters.



## Spanish town accuses 'repressive' police

From Our Correspondent  
Madrid, March 11

Paramilitary Civil Guards in plain clothes shot and wounded a photographer in San Sebastian today in the wake of the deaths of seven people in confrontations with the police over the past two weeks.

The shooting came after the town council of Basauri, near Bilbao, where a youth was shot dead by police in a demonstration on Monday, issued a statement condemning the "repressive means" used by police. The photographer was shot in the arm by mistake when the police opened fire on a man they were chasing. It was not known whether the photographer was a journalist, or why the Civil Guards used their guns.

The town council of Basauri met yesterday in extraordinary session after the funeral for the youth, attended by 40,000 people who crowded into the town's football stadium for a Mass. In attendance, the council said that it "cannot and must not be silent about the disturbing circumstances" and attacked the "forces of public order for using repressive means which resulted in this tragic event".

The town councillors also protested at the arrest of workers whose only crime was "to fight in their factories for better social and economic conditions for all workers". Their repudiation of police action came after a similar protest by the town council of Vitoria, where

four people people were shot dead by police last week. In a clandestine statement in Madrid the two powerful popular front organizations, the Communist-founded Democratic Junta, and the Socialist-based Platform of Democratic Convergence, have called for an independent inquiry into the shootings.

Three of the alleged organizers of the strike coordinating committee in Vitoria, who were arrested earlier this week, have been transferred to the Madrid police headquarters. They include Señor Jesus Naves, who spoke from the altar at the funeral Mass of three of the victims last Friday.

In Madrid, striking workers at the Osram lamp factory shot to their blood to raise money for themselves: 800 workers at the factory have been on strike for the past month.

King Juan Carlos saw Señor Manuel Fraga, the Interior Minister, and Señor José María Aznar, the Foreign Minister, at the Zarzuela Palace yesterday, while the special commission to study constitutional reforms met under the presidency of Señor Carlos Arias, the Prime Minister.

The two ministers who saw the king are regarded as the most liberal in the Government and the meeting was interpreted in some political circles as a sign of a possible split in the Government between the reformists and those who want the pace of reform to be slower.

## Bonn attempts to save new Polish treaties

From Our Own Correspondent  
Bonn, March 11

In an eleventh hour attempt to rescue the threatened treaties with Poland, Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, invited Opposition leaders to his office for talks today.

The three agreements—on pensions, financial credits to Poland and emigration of ethnic Germans—are to be voted on tomorrow by the Bundestag (Upper House), where the Opposition has a majority of 11.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) have said they will reject the treaties and thus prevent ratification unless all 230,000 ethnic Germans who wish to leave to do so. The emigration treaty allows up to 125,000 to leave by 1980.

Herr Schmidt's surprise initiative today brought Herr Genscher, the Foreign Minister, Dr. Helmut Kohl, the CDU chairman, and Herr Franz Josef Strauss, chairman of the opposition's Bavarian wing, to the Chancellery for 90 minutes of discussion.

Among other opposition representatives present was the Prime Minister of the Lower Saxony, whose five Bundestag votes the CDU Government hopes to win for the treaties.

But the CDU was still genuinely baulking tonight for new concessions from Poland, agreeing that all ethnic Germans can leave if they wish, so that the Bundestag can ratify the package unanimously tomorrow.

## Talks open on closer EEC link with Canada

From Our Own Correspondent  
Brussels, March 11

The European Community opened negotiations with Canada for a new type of agreement on economic and commercial cooperation which it is hoped can be signed later this year. This is in response to Canada's wishes for closer ties with the Community extending beyond trade policy.

It would provide a framework within which EEC and Canadian industries could promote joint ventures and it would complement present commercial and economic links between Canada and most EEC member states.

## Woman appointed British ambassador to Denmark

By Roger Berthoud

It was with a mixture of incredulity and pleasure that Miss Anne Warburton heard five weeks ago that she was to become Britain's Ambassador to Denmark, at the early age of 48. Yesterday the Foreign Office formally announced that she is to succeed Sir Andrew Stark in Copenhagen on his return to a post in London.

Miss Warburton, who is a trained economist and joined the Foreign Office from Lazard's at the age of 30, will not strictly speaking be Britain's first woman ambassador. That distinction went to Dame Barbara Salt in 1962, as Miss Warburton was quick to point out yesterday, but Dame Barbara became too ill to take up her post as ambassador to Israel, and died last December.

Nor is Miss Warburton the senior woman in the Foreign Office: that position is held by Miss Gillian Brown, at present on secondment to the Department of Energy, Britain's High Commissioner in Botswana is Miss Eleanor Emery, formerly of the Commonwealth Relations Office.

Since last April, Miss Warburton has been head of the guidance and information policy department at the Foreign Office, which helps embassies to explain British policies in their capitals. She has served in Bonn and the British mission to the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and also in the economic and personnel departments in London.

The daughter of a soldier turned businessman, she was educated mainly in the United States, going on to Somerville College, Oxford, after Columbia University. Her first two

## Iceland gives Norway rights

Oslo, March 11.—Norwegian fishermen have obtained limited new rights to fish between 12 and 200 miles off Iceland, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry said today.

Up to 45 Norwegian vessels would be allowed special fishing rights until December 1 this year, provided that only 30 vessels fish simultaneously in the area. Icelandic authorities would decide the total catch quotas.—AP.

## Portuguese free jailed general

Lisbon, March 11.—A Portuguese general who took refuge in the West German embassy after a right-wing uprising a year ago has been released from a military prison, a military spokesman said today.

He is General Ferreira Damiao, a former commander of the paramilitary Republican Guard. On March 11 last year, he was arrested after a half-hour seizure of the guard headquarters here for a few hours and detained in its left-wing commander.—Reuters.



Miss Warburton outside the Foreign Office yesterday.

Jobs were in London with the Marshall Plan, and in Paris, in NATO's economic section.

Another brother is a clergyman, and in the Confederation of British Industries and her sister, a social worker, lives with the Arapahoe tribe in Wyoming.

Miss Warburton expects to have some difficulties as a woman ambassador—mainly of protocol—but understands there are other women envoys in Copenhagen already. She is learning Danish.

## Moluccan hijackers would do the same again

From Sue Masterman  
The Hague, March 11

Several of the seven South Moluccan youths on trial in The Netherlands for hijacking a train said today they would not hesitate to take part in another such raid if they thought it would persuade Indonesia to grant independence to the South Moluccan islands.

The seven are all charged with murder and manslaughter. Two of the 23 hostages they held were killed in cold blood, and the train driver was shot when he resisted the seizure of his train.

Today, the second day of the three-day trial, the last of the seven were questioned by the judges. As the first day, the atmosphere in the small courtroom was businesslike and practically void of emotion despite the detailed descriptions of the calculated and cold-blooded murder of hostages.

Mr. Elias Hahurt, aged 24, was described by the judges as the most aggressive of the seven. A little young man, whose copious Afro-style hair increases his stature, he acted as "executioner". Armed with a Stan gun, he fired salutes at point-blank range at the two hostages who died as they knelt with their backs to him in the train doorway. He agreed in court that he had ordered the other hostages should be killed on the fourth day of the siege, while his companions hesitated.

Mr. Hahurt, unlike most of the others, had refused to cooperate with police investigating the case. In court, however, he broke his silence and answered questions put by the bench, dismissing all questions concerning his personal feelings or his family as "of no importance".

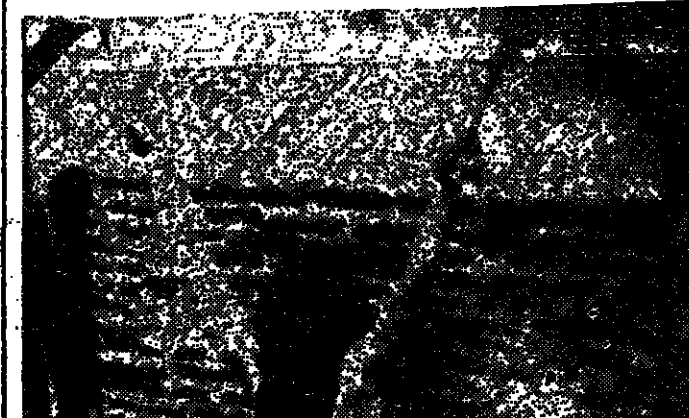
Mr. Albert Sabetey, aged 22, told the court how he shot the severely-injured soldier, Leo Buike, twice through the neck with his Colt revolver after the executioner failed to kill him outright.

"I went out on to the embankment to look at him and heard him sighing", he told the court. "I decided to put an end to his pain. I put my gun against his neck, looked away, and fired twice."

Tomorrow the defence will call two of the hostages as witnesses. The prosecution will not call any of the hostages. The defence will also call Dr. Jan Manassama, President of the South Moluccan Republic in exile, who leads the majority of the 250,000 Moluccans in the community in The Netherlands.

After an initial attempt to stop any political aspect being brought into the case the judges gave way to the defence argument that the political background of the exiled Moluccans forms an essential element in the trial. The defendants have been allowed, within limits, to explain their political motivation.

## OVERSEAS



The torture photographs released yesterday by Amnesty International: above, "el caballero" (the sawhorse), and below "la bandera" (the banner).

## Amnesty illustrates Uruguay torture

By David Spenser  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Amnesty International yesterday released two photographs of men being tortured in Uruguay. They were sent out of the country by a Uruguayan Army officer who said he had been taken in one of the many private houses being used for the torture and interrogation of political detainees.

The address in Montevideo of one such house is given. The photograph shows a hooded man enduring *la bandera* (the banner), suspended by his wrists in the garden of the house. The other shows another hooded but otherwise naked victim suffering a torture called *el caballero* (the sawhorse).

"The photograph of *la bandera* was taken after the prisoner had been hanging for three hours, under a sun of over 28°C, and he was undoubtedly left there for many more hours," the officer writes. "El caballero" consists of a metal bar with an edge on which the prisoners are seated handcuffed and naked for hours, with their feet hanging in the air."

The Uruguay Embassy in London said yesterday that its Government did not recognize Amnesty International either as a legal or a moral authority. Accordingly, the embassy would not make any comments or statements on the matter, except to say that the organization was presenting a false image of Uruguay.

Mr. David Simpson, British section director of Amnesty, said that he had no reason to doubt that the letter and the photographs were genuine, although the officer had remained anonymous for obvious reasons. There had been no response to Amnesty's worldwide campaign to draw attention to torture in Uruguay, but he was hopeful that the Uruguayan authorities would be prepared to investigate the treatment of political prisoners.

The officer's letter, which particularly appeals to the Holy See, claims that use of torture is widespread and indiscriminate. "I have hundreds of proofs, from my own painful personal experience. I can state that no one is safe from this treatment; some cases are more brutal than others, but practically all prisoners, irrespective of age or sex, are beaten and tortured."

He adds that he had personally witnessed "the worst aberrations committed against women, many of whom were arrested for the sole purpose of the authorities discovering the whereabouts of their husbands, fathers or sons."

Mr. Barckley said 33 of the 13 injured had to be treated in hospital for severe cuts on the head and bruises to backs, arms and legs. The five arrested had been "so much interrogated as to have up most of the first 11 hours later they were arrested before a military court and, after evidence had been given by a soldier, were each fined \$220, to be paid in two instalments. They were not allowed to give evidence or call witnesses, though all had pleaded not guilty.

The troops arrived at the hostel, he said, after he had been telephoned in charge of the names of who were demoted refused to give names to inspect the damage to the college house, and the injuries to students caused during an attack yesterday by Israeli troops sent to put down a demonstration.

Describing the incident yesterday, in which 18 students were injured and five arrested, he said it was the first time troops had attacked the college's living quarters and dormitory. The demonstration had been outside in the street, but the students were beaten when they tried to enter the college. Some were lying in bed sick and one youth was dragged naked from the shower room and attacked with clubs.

The journalists were shown broken doors and windows, glass-strewn and bloodstained floors, overturned beds, damaged furniture and a shower room with all its mirrors smashed. A telephone had also been broken and holes punched through wall pictures. The attack on the college has resulted in the resignation of the mayors and councils of Ramallah, al-Birah and Bir Zeit, following the example of the mayor and council of Nablus, where the latest wave of West Bank unrest started on Sunday.

The Bir Zeit students had been demonstrating in support of the Nablus school where a pitched battle was fought between troops and students. Mr. Barckley said 33 of the 13 injured had to be treated in hospital for severe cuts on the head and bruises to backs, arms and legs. The five arrested had been "so much interrogated as to have up most of the first 11 hours later they were arrested before a military court and, after evidence had been given by a soldier, were each fined \$220, to be paid in two instalments. They were not allowed to give evidence or call witnesses, though all had pleaded not guilty.

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## 3,000 Egyptians are expelled by Libya

Cairo, March 11.—Relations between Egypt and Libya took another turn for the worse today with Egyptian statements that Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, had ordered the expulsion of 3,000 Egyptians in retaliation for the arrest of 27 Libyans in Cairo.

Egyptian officials said Libya had confiscated the property of the Egyptians served with deportation orders over the past two days.

Some 550 of those ordered to leave had already arrived at Sollum, on the Egyptian-Libyan border, where eight of them were taken to hospital with serious injuries resulting from "bestial and barbaric aggression", a semi-official Egyptian newspaper reported.

There was no independent confirmation of the reports, but in Tunis the pro-government daily *La Presse de Tunisie* said Libya had also expelled 1,357 Tunisians since March 7.

This was the day the Egyptian authorities detained Mr. Muhammad al-Massoudi, a Tunisian Foreign Minister, for questioning in connection with an alleged Libyan kidnapping plot.

Officials here viewed the reported expulsion order with what observers considered unusually "cool detachment". "Just another Gaddafi caper", said a senior official. He doubted that Egypt would rupture relations with its turbulent neighbour.

"We have had many ups and downs in the past," the official said. "This is a down and I don't see why we should break relations."

None of the Egyptians travelling on the morning aircraft from Tripoli to Cairo had been expelled, but one who refused to identify himself, said Egyptian leaving Libya were being subjected to verbal abuse and unusually tight baggage checks.

The latest rift between Egypt and Libya, uneasy partners in the Federation of Arab Republics, has been deepened by the Egyptian rejection of Gaddafi's proposals and economic unity.

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## Lord policy denounced Congress call for economic expansion

Frank Vogel  
Economic Correspondent  
Washington, March 11

A joint economic committee of the House of Representatives and the Senate today launched a violent attack on President Ford's economic policies, mainly on the grounds that they will result in a "monumental waste of resources". The committee said that his budget and economic report "are a recipe for continued recession, unemployment and inflation for several years".

The committee called in its report for much more active fiscal and monetary policy, for cuts in defence spending, for "an active, but not inflationary, monetary policy", for "much greater aid to industry", spending a million new public jobs next year; and a "national commitment" to employment.

The report's conclusions have been welcomed by the Democratic leadership in the House and may therefore have much more influence on Congress's economic decisions this year than the President's own economic programmes urged.

Hubert Humphrey, leader of the committee, told a conference that the Administration's economic policies "are outrageous", while Senator Edward Kennedy called for "a social tragedy".

The report issued a warning of the present economic re-

covery could founder in 1977 unless more stimulation was provided. This view won support from Professor Walter Heller, former chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors, who told the Senate budget committee that President Ford was on an "austerity trail" that could lead to the recovery being aborted.

The committee called for an extension of the present temporary income tax cuts, that is due to expire on July 1, to at least the end of 1977. It opposed President Ford's plan for an increase in social security taxes and the creation of an additional income tax shield, which it said would reduce the gross national product by 1.5 per cent in 1977 and 2 per cent in 1978.

In the past year, it said, between 60 million and 75 million people were members of families in which someone was out of work. Policies must now be devised to bring unemployment down to 6 per cent by the end of 1977 and eventually to reduce it to "no higher than 3 per cent of the adult work force".

The report claimed that there was so much slack in the economy that more stimulative policies would not lead to a new upsurge in inflation.

The committee said that the Department of Defence continued to be wasteful in the use of funds, and that \$6,000 million could be cut from President Ford's defence spending plans for next year without impairing national defence.

## Greek coup leaders cleared over killings

From Our Correspondent  
Athens, March 11

The Athens Court of Appeals confirmed today that two young Greeks were killed in Athens on April 21, 1967 by the military who seized power on that day, in what they claimed to be a bloodless coup. But the court decided that there was no evidence that the colonels who engineered the coup had issued "shoot to kill" orders to the troops.

The court sentenced former Sergeant Lykouris Andrikopoulos, aged 31, to eight years' imprisonment for the murder of Vassilakis Pavlis, aged 15, in an Athens square on the day of the coup. The court accepted that he had acted in a fit of anger and considered his good record a mitigating circumstance.

The court also gave a five and a half year prison sentence to former tank captain Ioannis Aikantis for inflicting fatal injuries on Maria Kalavrou, aged 24, on the same day. It accepted the view that the victim had been hit by the ricochet of a shot fired by the captain from his tank turret.

The former dictator Mr George Papadopoulos, and his two deputies Mr Stylianos Pattakos and Mr Nikolaos Makarezos, who are under sentence of death for revolt, were acquitted of the charge of moral instigation in both cases.

## Record of exchanges in a 'diplomatic incident' at sea near the Falklands

## How British captain resisted demands by Argentine destroyer that opened fire

By Michael Frenchman

"Stop your machines, or I shall open fire," were the words that led to what is termed a "diplomatic incident". Most such incidents go unrecorded in any detail. This one, involving Britain and Argentina last month, was an exception and this is a report of the incident as it actually happened.

On February 4 at 9.30 am, the Argentine destroyer Almirante Storni (3,050 tons) intercepted the 1,100-ton British research ship Shackleton, 78 miles south of Cape Pembroke in the Falkland Islands and some 450 miles off the Argentine mainland. Shots were fired by the Storni.

Someone on the bridge of the Shackleton had the presence of mind to switch on a small tape recorder. This picked up most of the conversation heard over the radio loudspeaker system between Captain Philip Warne, master of the Shackleton, and the captain of the Almirante Storni.

Captain Warne said that when the destroyer first approached, it called up on the radio-telephone, "Endurance, Endurance, Endurance," having mistaken the Shackleton for the Endurance, the Royal Navy's ice patrol vessel.

Officials in Argentina's Foreign Ministry told me they were convinced that they were attempting to stop an armed warship, although Captain Warne said he thought it was a ship of the tongue by the

unfortunate radio operator on the Almirante Storni.

This may have been the case, but both ships are painted red and the implication is that it is possible the Argentine Foreign Ministry, which was without doubt stage-managing the incident, thought the Shackleton may have been carrying Lord Shackleton and his team away from the islands where they had been doing an economic survey.

In fact, Lord Shackleton, who had arrived at the beginning of January on board the Endurance after being refused entry into Argentina, had left Port Stanley, the Falklands capital, on board the fleet auxiliary Tide Surge for Brazil.

There is no doubt that the interception of the Shackleton by the Storni was ordered by the Argentine Foreign Ministry after a warning it made in a note to the British Government on November 14. This became clear from the ensuing conversation between the two captains.

As the Storni approached the Shackleton on February 4, it was flying a flag signal: "Stop your engines." The Shackleton ignored this and the Storni called it up on the radio:

Storni: Shackleton, you are in Argentine waters. Stop your machines. We are going to send a boat.

Shackleton: This is the Shackleton. We are not in Argentine waters; we are more than 200 miles from the Argentine mainland and the

British Government does not recognize these as Argentine waters. If you do so much as you intend to do, you will be providing an international incident of grave consequences to yourself. You are taking the responsibility for that upon yourself and I repeat, I have no intention of stopping.

Storni: I repeat, for the last time, stop your machines, stop your machines. This is Storni. I know my responsibilities, stop machines or I shall open fire.

Shackleton: This is the Shackleton again. If you persist in this, I suggest you escort us into Port Stanley, which is where we are going.

Storni: Shackleton, we are going to escort you to Ushuaia in Tierra del Fuego.

Shackleton: I repeat, I have no intention of going to Ushuaia. We are bound for Port Stanley. If you consider that the Falkland Islands are part of your territory, you can have no objection whatsoever to escorting us to Port Stanley.

Storni: My orders are that you have to stop machines and let me visit your ship. If you don't stop machines, I shall open fire.

Shackleton: And my orders are that I am not to allow you to board and I have notified the Governor and Commander-in-Chief of the Falkland Islands that you are alongside us at the moment and I repeat, if you wish to escort us anywhere, you can escort us to Port Stanley.

During this conversation an Argentine Navy Neptune aircraft circled the Shackleton, coming in at mast height on one occasion. Then, the Almirante Storni opened fire with two shots.

Storni: Shackleton, this is Storni. I don't want to cause casualties in your people. Stop your machines.

Captain Warne told Storni that he had asked Mr Neville French, Governor of the Falklands, for instructions and the Storni allowed 10 minutes for a reply on condition that the Shackleton reduced speed to five knots. The conversation then proceeded:

Shackleton: The Governor of the Falklands agrees with me that the right course for you is to escort us into Port Stanley since you consider it to be Argentine territory.

Storni: Shackleton, my orders are that you have to stop and we shall visit your ship.

Shackleton warned Storni that it was carrying a ton of explosives and, if fired on, the consequences would be very serious.

The conversation had now been going on for about two and a half hours. Just after noon, tension began to ease and the Almirante Storni took no further aggressive action.

As the Shackleton neared Port Stanley, it was joined by a helicopter from the Endurance, six miles from Port Stanley, the Almirante Storni turned away.

## Princesses 'well' in Ethiopian prison

Stockholm, March 11.—Princesses of the Ethiopian royal family, imprisoned in Addis Ababa since the overthrow of Emperor Haile Selassie 18 months ago, are physically well but are under considerable mental strain, according to a Swedish doctor who visited them recently.

Dr Arnt Meyer-Lie saw the princesses and other members of the late Emperor's family when he visited Akaki jail in Addis Ababa at the request of a Swedish action group.

He said that Princess Aida, the Emperor's granddaughter, had told him that she was being given enough to eat and received medical attention when needed.

Princess Aida and other members of the royal family held in Akaki jail complained that they were not allowed contact with members of the royal family who were not under arrest.

Dr Meyer-Lie said he had been accompanied throughout the visit by the director of the Ethiopian prison service who told him that prisons had changed since the revolution. There were now 2,800 political prisoners compared with 6,000 during the Haile Selassie regime, including 200 women.

The official had also told him that the practice of chaining prisoners had been abolished and there was no longer torture and summary execution as there had been under the old regime.—Agence France Press.

## Senator Church a new threat to Mr Udall

Patrick Brogan  
Washington, March 11

Senator Frank Church is announcing his candidacy for the Democratic presidential nomination next week. He is not dismayed by the fact that other liberal Democrats are fallen by the wayside in the campaign, but the difficulties of catching up with the front-runners, Mr Carter and Senator Jackson.

He has news for Mr Udall, who has been rallying Democratic support behind his banner. Church denies that he is the game for Mr Udall. "I am not really in his league," he said. "I stayed out of the race. I've given him a full hearing, but he hasn't got to produce what he's got to produce."

second and hope to provide a viable alternative to Carter and Jackson.

Senator Church is avoiding this dilemma, and had decided not to enter the next pair of important elections, in New York and Wisconsin on April 6, even though the Wisconsin primary is traditionally one of the keys to the nomination, particularly for liberal candidates. He will probably run in the latter primaries in the upper mid-west and in his own region, the north-west.

Meanwhile, in New York, Mr Udall has again failed to win the support of those party faithful left stranded when Senator Birch Bayh bowed out of the race, so is now concentrating on Wisconsin.

Mr Sargent Shriver, another liberal, continues to campaign without money and without hope, and is still running in the Illinois primary next week; and Mr Fred Harris also battles on.

## on claim on British spy sect' disputed

Our Own Correspondent  
London, March 11

Richard Nixon's assertion that unnamed British news sources had been under "intelligent" surveillance as a "British" for several years before 1969 was today disputed by British officials.

Henry Brandon, correspondent for The Sunday Times, also denied ever acting as an agent of British intelligence service, "any other" according to The New York Times today.

Mr Brandon put the question because it was he was among 17 whose telephones were tapped after May, 1969, in an attempt to stop news leaks.

## Concorde hopes pinned on New Jersey

From Our Own Correspondent  
New York, March 11

British and French officials have switched their attention to the New Jersey state legislature in Trenton in an effort to win support for the Concorde to land in New York. Teams of officials travelled to Trenton yesterday and saw members of the legislature to put their case.

New Jersey is important because Kennedy airport is run by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. The New York state legislature has already adopted a Bill which would have the effect of banning Concorde, but this cannot go into effect unless identical legislation is adopted in New Jersey.

## ans about US weakness use Kissinger fury

Ed Emery  
New York, March 11

Henry Kissinger, the Secretary of State, today gave vent to his anger with critics of a foreign policy, particularly those who are subscribing to the "10 foot tall" theory of Soviet intentions.

He said that the "recklessness" of those indulging in "an orgy of recrimination" could lead to a "moralizing" America's "adventures" and "strength is uneven".

Mr Kissinger told the Boston Affairs Council, "The Soviet system are

glaring and have been clearly documented."

The criticisms from Mr Ronald Reagan, in the Republican camp, and from Mr Henry Jackson, on the Democratic side, are known to have ranked with Dr Kissinger. He has been privately scornful of those who bewail American strategic weakness when in fact the United States claims a superior navy and an increasing lead over the Soviet Union in the number of nuclear warheads.

In his counterattack today he said that America's enemies watched with glee and its allies with dismayed amazement as the United States seemed bent on destroying its achievements in "an orgy of recrimination".

## n opposition vn to ers regime

Our Correspondent  
Hanoi, March 11

The first time since the 1960s there is open opposition to his regime in Vietnam.

It was purportedly signed by 150 veterans of the days of the fight for independence from the French, including two prime ministers of the provisional government.

The document has been circulated in Hanoi and is calling for an end to the "hostility" with the South Vietnamese government to a constitution. It asserts that the "personal dictatorship" is not a "recognizable" factor.

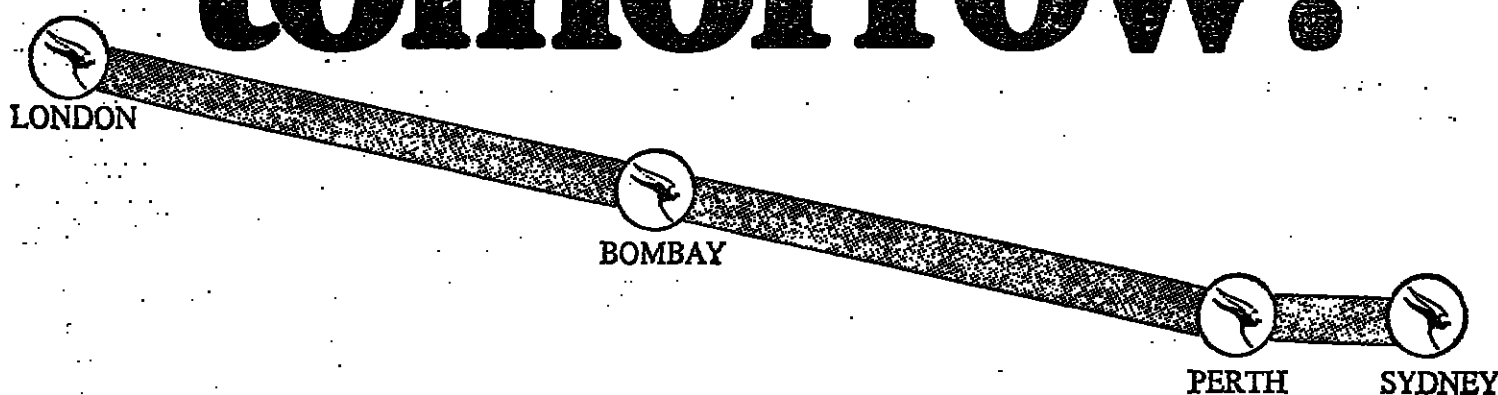
## Wildcat strikes hit industry in Argentina

Buenos Aires, March 11.—Unofficial strikes affected key sections of Argentine industry today despite a general pay award.

Under a government decision announced last night, all workers will receive a 20 per cent rise instead of 12 per cent originally planned. But the plan also calls for increases of up to 100 per cent in the prices of gas, electricity and many consumer goods, and in rail fares.

Workers, often led by left-wing militants, staged wildcat strikes in the Buenos Aires industrial belt and in Cordoba, the centre of the car industry. The car workers are demanding pay increases of at least 50 per cent and abandonment of the Government's six-month austerity programme.—Reuters.

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|              |    |      |                          |
|--------------|----|------|--------------------------|
| Madonna di C | 30 | Good | spring snow. No          |
| San Martino  | 10 | Good | across roads clear       |
| Salva        | 10 | Fair | road. Chert: No          |
| Sebbione     | 70 | Good | place. hills were on top |
|              | 70 | Good | Vertical runs: 600 feet  |





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[illegible]







## Who will get the plum job in Europe?

The problem of whom Mr Wilson is going to nominate for the presidency of the European Commission is becoming a matter of collective consciousness. Some reports have suggested, rashly, that the Prime Minister has already plumped for Sir Christopher Soames, a vice-president of the commission in charge of external affairs since 1973.

But there is little doubt, as Mr Wilson must realize, that large sections of the Labour Party would rise up in anger at the appointment of a high Tory like Sir Christopher to such an important position, however good his European credentials might be.

Some MPs will point out that there is a perfectly good Labour commissioner, Mr. Thompson, who has been in charge of regional affairs since Britain's entry. Others, while having doubts about Mr Thompson's suitability for the post, are likely to find a man like Sir Christopher who was not long ago talked of as a possible leader of the Conservative Party.

Sir Christopher himself appears to have given up hopes of a spectacular comeback to domestic politics, and is not hiding his desire for the presidency. There has been a tacit understanding, reinforced by the referendum result, that Britain—as the largest of the three new member states—should be able to nominate a successor to the incumbent, Mr. Francois-Xavier Ortoli, a former French Cabinet minister, who leaves at the end of the year. Any reasonable British nomination is likely to be accepted by Mr Wilson's EEC colleagues.

### Disapproval

Until recently, it was widely assumed that Sir Christopher would be a British president. But the climate is now changing in London. Labour backbenchers have a lot of grumbles, and Mr Wilson does not like alienating people ungratefully. He has so far refrained from any indication that the man he sent to Paris as British ambassador in 1968 is once again his choice for a plum job.

The decision can probably not be postponed beyond early summer, and may be discussed informally at next month's meeting of EEC heads of government in Luxembourg. The suggestion of Mr. Tindemans, the Belgian Prime Minister, that the president of the commission should have some say in the choice of the other

commissioners is not likely to be smiled on by the French or British, who would disapprove of such an extension of power and patronage.

The role of president of the commission calls for an ability to understand the political situation in each member state, a high degree of tenacity and common sense, a developed gift for administration and a genuine flair for public relations. Mr. Ortoli, an excellent administrator, has been weakest in public relations, and has failed to prevent the commission from being rather indistinct in its policy proposals.

"Sir Soames" as he is often called on the Continent, is a shrewd and tough political operator, quick on the uptake, and good at sporting the important political issue. He has the twin advantages of knowing it all works, and of speaking good French and Italian. But he can be vacuously bombastic in public and is not good at mastering detailed dossiers. His taste for good food, cigars and Rolls-Royces, his aristocratic aura, and his enthusiasm for the capitalist system are disadvantages in certain political contexts.

### Convincing

Mr Thompson is a highly intelligent and likeable man who was a successful Labour Cabinet minister before going to Brussels. His performance there has not been wholly convincing, and his plans for a huge regional fund turned out to be unrealistically ambitious, like the Conservative government. There could be some advantages for Mr Wilson in having a Scot as president of the commission. But it is precisely his slight aura of provincial integrity which is a handicap to Mr Thompson.

If Mr Wilson were to go for a fresh Labour nominee from London, it could only be someone of at least Mr Thompson's seniority. There appears, however, to be no suitable and willing candidate (how the name of Mr Fred Mulley, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, came to be raised is a mystery).

One supremely suitable candidate does exist: a man of enormous standing in Europe, a politician with an easy mastery of technical detail—Mr. Edward Heath. But even if it were politically possible for Mr Wilson to offer him the job, he appears to have ruled out the possibility of taking it. Europe is the loser.

Roger Berthoud

## Why the left rebelled over cuts in expenditure



Mr John Biffen: He noted signs of "a death-bed repentance".

Tories like John Biffen, MP, are correct when they point out that the public expenditure cuts proposed in the recently published White Paper are concentrated very much towards the review period of 1976-80. Why then all the fuss and anger from the left of the Labour Party? Why are we not content to let the proposals go by, hoping that as a general election gets closer they will be dropped? Why did we abstain on Wednesday night, leading to the defeat of the Government? Is the left's opposition one further example, as some would suggest, of trying to commit the Labour Party to *Harsh-Tri*?

If the left's reaction was purely one of instant mindless militancy then it would be wrong, but what the Government is proposing has long been feared by the left, and its opposition is based on those long-standing fears. What has to be understood is that public expenditure cuts were already in the pipeline for 1976-77 and announced in the 1975 Budget. These cuts, compared with the planned levels outlined in the *Expenditure White Paper* of January, 1975.

These cuts were firstly a 3 per cent cut in the defence budget. A cut not unwelcome to the left, in fact from their point of view not going far enough. Secondly, with regard to civil programmes, general cuts of 15 per cent in current expenditure on goods and services (which included manpower) and 10 per cent on capital expenditure. Thirdly, the phasing out by 1976-77 of what has been referred to as "price restraint" subsidies for nationalized industries. These were worth £550m in 1974-75 prices. Fourthly, other cuts in transfer spending, amounting to £150m on food subsidies, £650m on housing subsidies, £20m on overseas aid, and lastly, cuts of over £100m in the capital investment programme of the nationalized industries.

It is true that the counter-inflation measures announced in July and the very small package of measures announced in September put back £1,444m which was more than the amount taken out by the Budget, but they did not offset certain areas of expenditure which have a serious consequence on public services and which are bitterly resented by trade unions such as Nupes and Nalco. For example, the executive director of Nupes is at present conducting a campaign against the cuts in public expenditure, and is very much opposed to a boost for private industry at the expense of the public services.

In view of one which is shared by Labour's left-wing,

especially when it says: "Only through parallel measures designed to extend public ownership, public control, public accountability, public investment and the public services will it be possible to establish a political base for the realization of social objectives".

The sad truth is that the Government has succumbed to pressures from the CBI, the City of London, and the Tory Party. To use John Biffen's terms, referring to Chancellor Denis Healey, "there are some signs of a death-bed repentance", meaning he has now accepted their views.

The Tories in the House of Commons have consistently demanded public expenditure cuts. Their present criticism of the Government is that despite the Government's proposals they are too little and too late. That is why a self-respecting *Tribune* group MP could possibly find himself in the same lobby as the Tories, who wish to put greater and more immediate burdens on the shoulders of ordinary working people.

The White Paper proposals mean cuts in the programme for 1977/78 and 1978/79 of £1,034m and £2,414m respectively. It is gratifying to note that certain areas have been almost totally exempted from cuts, such as social security, which includes pensions, national insurance benefits, supplementary benefits and family allowances. However, cuts in education, libraries, science and the arts

have been seriously affected. One of the meanest proposals is the cutting of the school meals subsidy which will fall from 60 per cent of the average cost of meals to around 30 per cent by 1980.

Because of the undoubtedly vigorous stand made by Barbara Castle, the health and social services are less affected than education, but the capital programme is still to be cut by 13 per cent, to £47m. Housing cuts will total £365m by 1978/79 of which £310m will be reductions in public sector housing subsidies. This clearly means that council house rents will rise in real terms, despite the White Paper saying: "Rents will still be meeting a smaller proportion of costs than in the early years of the decade".

As to the investment programme of the nationalized industries, it is to be cut by 13 per cent, to £324m by 1978/79. Food subsidies are planned to fall from £576m to only £50m in 1978/79. The big year to year reductions will occur in 1976/77 and in 1978/79.

When one considers the cuts as a whole, it can be seen that they are a reversal of the policies upon which the February and October general elections were fought. The October Manifesto of the Labour Party said: "We have made no easy promises. Our programme has been fully costed. And we have weighed these costs carefully. But we have set our aims high. We are a democratic socialist

party and our objective is to bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and their families."

It is the view of the *Tribune* group MPs that the cuts will transfer wealth and power from the poor to the wealthy sections of our society. They will damage investment and employment in the public sector, and allow unacceptably high levels of unemployment to continue through the next upturn in the economy and into the 1980s. They will also strengthen the Tory Party in its campaign to cut public expenditure even further.

Mr Jenkins gives comfort to the Tory campaign and is totally wrong in suggesting that if public expenditure reaches 60 per cent of national income it is dangerous and could lead to the end of pluralism in our society. It is a view not based on facts, as a number of countries have a higher level of public expenditure than we do and democratic societies. What is true is that there is a need to carry out a redistribution of wealth, that taxation needs to fall less on the low incomes and more on those with the higher personal incomes and on corporate bodies. There is also a need to explain fully why taxes are essential and what they are used for. I have long believed that if the people understand what they get for their taxes they are less likely to argue against them.

The alternative to the Government's proposed public expenditure cuts is a new economic review of the TUC clearly points the way to the new policy that is required. It differs only slightly from that consistently put forward by the *Tribune* group of MPs over the last year. No doubt the alternatives will be fully aired and discussed when the NEC of the Labour Party meets the Cabinet on March 23. The Government is already retreating, as shown by its carefully drafted motion discussed on Tuesday and Wednesday in Parliament, as well as the answers given by Joel Barnett, the Treasury Chief Secretary, when he was grilled before the Select Committee on Expenditure last week.

In the meantime the pressure to change government policy will build up especially at grass roots level and like the argument over *In Place of Fear* could lead to a change of heart at Cabinet level.

### Eric Heffer

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1976

Bernard Levin

## Intellectuals: It's all in the mind

What is an intellectual? I don't mean who is an intellectual, though that will, as we shall see, form an important part of our inquiry, but what? How do you define one?

These questions arose again the other night, when the word was used in conversation and everything stopped while it was discussed. We got nowhere, which is also where we got the last time we found ourselves trying to establish the meaning by drawing its boundaries and a passing waiter dropped a dish full of mackerel on a stone floor when he heard, apparently addressed to him, the memorable question: "Well, is Woodrow Wyatt an intellectual?" (We had just agreed, *non cor, that* Lenin was and Stalin wasn't.)

The Oxford dictionaries again, indelicately unhelpful in the matter. The Concise gives "Person possessing a good understanding, an enlightened mind, a high level of culture." An intellectual being: a person possessing or supposed to possess superior powers of intellect, and the big "un, not for certainty, goes no further than deleting or supposed to possess" from its younger brother's version, none of which, you will allow, gets us much further.

Answering the question in respect of individuals is fun, but does not, in practice, aid the search for a definition. It is fun, for since most people obviously are or obviously aren't intellectuals, the names discussed are always borderline cases. Was Cromwell an intellectual? Was the first Duke of Marlborough? Was Lord Chesterfield? Beethoven was, but Mozart wasn't: what about Haydn? Mr Roy Jenkins is, and Mr James Callaghan is not, but what about Mr Wilson himself? Mr Healey? Mr Whitelaw? Mr Thatcher?

You begin to see the difficulty, I imagine; I can assure you that it is not much lessened when you start to do it in categories. A university teacher is an intellectual, necessarily; but is a school teacher? Thomas Mann, to put it mildly, was an intellectual, and Harold Robbins, to put it no less mildly, is not; does that mean we cannot classify novelists *en masse*, and that even writers in the same genre are one or the other? (Is Mr Benn an intellectual? Is Prince Charles? Probably yes, probably no, though don't forget that the latter plays the 'cello and the former has for years been steadily doctoring his *Who Who* entry to conceal the fact that he had a good education. Are 'cellists, then, intellectuals, and those who affect to despise the intellect not? Or not?)

Meeting will come to order, and gentlemen, we attempted to define an intellectual as one who wastes his own time and everybody else's playing games like this will be escorted from the hall by the stewards, the latter using no more force than is necessary. (See *Salmon on Torts*, and the particular *Collins v Renison*, for the doctrine of *molitor manus impositus*, though kindly note that *Renison*, who said that he "gently shook the lad" and "gently overruled it" and "gently threw the plaintiff to the ground, doing as little damage as possible," lost the case.)

Let us try to see what it is that all those who are undoubtedly intellectuals, including those who are not, have in common. Let us begin with the intellectual side of it (who may give us more important clues than those who raise no doubt at all) have in common. Though I am a habitué of the sense of a regularly practised skill is part of it. But it cannot be the whole of it; St. Thomas Aquinas fits into this category, as was claimed by an intellectual, but so does Hitler, who surely wasn't very nasty

indeed if anybody guessed to his face that *Analogue* thought, as we shall see, from an important part of our inquiry, but what? How do you define one?

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## Complaints against police: why the system should not change

It was courageous—but typical—of Sir Robert Mark, while still a serving police officer, to express, in public, his misgivings about the provisions in the Police Complaints Bill now being discussed in Parliament. In so doing, he has expressed the views of many of us who have been considering this problem for the past 10 years.

All of us who have thought about the matter are aware that we can always be accused of being judges in our own cause, and we have consistently, but without success, sought for some solution which would be fair to the police and satisfactory to all reasonable people.

Even if it is agreed in principle that it would be better for the police to hand over the investigation of complaints against police officers to some other body or organization, almost insuperable difficulties then arise.

In the first place, it has to be remembered that if it is alleged that a police officer has committed a crime, the only proper organization to investigate the alleged crime is the police, just as it would be if it is alleged that some member of the public has com-

mitted a crime, and it is the proper duty of the police, and no one else, to decide whether the results of the inquiry justify a prosecution—though, of course, legal advice can be taken on the weight and value of the evidence obtained, while there is the further safeguard that it is the duty now of chief constables to submit the result of the investigations against police officers to the Director of Public Prosecutions, who makes a final decision whether prosecution should ensue.

If the allegation or complaint is of improper behaviour, which does not amount to a crime, the matter must still be fully investigated, just as in the case of a crime. A written, detailed statement must be taken from the complainant; inquiries must be made, witnesses seen and statements taken from them; a file must be prepared; the weight and value of the evidence must be considered, and a decision reached as to what further action should be taken. This requires a team of skilled investigators and an organization to supervise them. If the police are not to do this, who is? The investigators must have

legal training and what it amounts to is that one would have to recruit a team of out of work lawyers or retired police officers, and if one uses the latter, one is back to square one. There is, however, the fact that all this would be extremely expensive.

A policeman is entitled to just and proper treatment and the morale of the service would undoubtedly suffer if some outside organization were put in charge of investigating how he had done his work or how he has conducted himself, whether on or off duty. Moreover, the policeman, like any member of the public, is entitled to the benefit of a presumption of innocence, and where it is solely the word of the civilian against the word of the policeman—and it often is in complaints of incivility—it would be inequitable, as a general rule, to accept the word of the member of the public rather than that of the policeman.

It would be most unsatisfactory—and I suggest, improper—to take discipline out of the hands of the chief constable of police. If the chief constable is for or worse, to run his force. He has to recruit the

right men and women, see that they get the right training, see that they get the right instructions and then see that they carry them out. It would, I submit, alter the whole relationship between the chief and his men if he is not to be in charge in the fullest sense of their discipline.

To ensure that the chief of police—outside London—is doing his job properly, there has been for more than 100 years, a system of annual inspections by HM Inspectors of Constabulary, who report to the Home Secretary whether, in their opinion, the force is efficient. In carrying out these inspections, such as they are, particular attention to the way in which chief constables have investigated complaints, and they draw to the attention of the chief constable any deficiencies they may have. From time to time they discuss these matters with the chairman of the police authority, and they report the result of their inspections to the Home Secretary.

In my experience, this system, on the whole, works well, and I believe that the

great majority of complainants are satisfied with the action that the police have taken to deal with complaints.

There are, however, in society some who wish always to denigrate the police and who are never prepared to believe that the police are honest and objective. It will never be possible to satisfy such people, who, though they are small in number, are usually very vocal. It is never possible to appease the unappeasable, and it is this that the present Bill is trying to do. I plead that Parliament should not try to do so by altering a well established and well tested system which satisfies the majority.

If, however, in spite of these arguments, it is decided that changes must be made, may I suggest a much simpler and less costly method than that proposed in the present Bill. The Home Secretary could invite a member of the judiciary in each police district (perhaps more in London) to examine in detail once a year all the files of papers dealing with complaints against the police and ask him to discuss them with the chief of police.

He would then submit a report on his general feelings to the police authority and to the Home Secretary, and this report would be published.

If he commented adversely on the way the investigations were carried out and on the decisions of the chief of police, it would be prima facie evidence on which the police authority could justifiably question whether the chief constable was carrying out his duties in a proper manner, and disciplinary action could be taken if appropriate cases then be taken against the chief of police.

This was the solution I proposed to the Government of Victoria, Australia, when advising on the reorganization of the police in that state. My recommendation was accepted and implemented in 1971. I am reliably informed that it meets with the approval of the vast majority, though not with universal acclaim. But then, nothing will.

### Sir Eric St Johnston

The author was Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 1966-70. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1976

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## The Times Diary

### Passions run high in Wimbledon

of his five available votes, the proxy holder has the right to fill up the remainder.

Wimbledon and Putney commons, has brought with it a ferocious political row, replete with accusations of foul play and double-dealing. The improbable central character in the melodrama of charge and counter-charge is David Dimbleby, the white-suited television personality.

The government of the commons is entrusted by an Act of 1871 to conservators, five of whom are elected triennially by an archaic system of multiple voting which affords rich opportunities for political chicanery. Hitherto elections have been untroubledly contested at best, but this year the conservators have run short of money. There are fears that the local borough councils might use this financial embarrassment to exert some municipal control over the commons lands.

As a result there have been 11 candidates vying for the five places. Dimbleby, as chairman of the Putney Common Association, has been actively campaigning for two candidates.

Local residents have five votes each, but their votes are weighted with values which may be anything from one to 18, according to the rateable value of their home and their proximity to the commons. People living within quarter of a mile of Wimbledon Commons—including residents of a GLC estate—have votes valued at 18 each, while residents of the parish of Putney score only six.

The practice is to canvass for proxies, using ballot forms with all the candidate's names. If the voter uses only one or two

verify their worth, and a careful watch to verify their validity. Now a team of four are working each night, making a list of what is officially described as "a recount". No result is expected before next week, and then Dimbleby will have to see whether he can overturn it or not. It is a wonder he has any time for *Panorama*.

### Misleading

P. H. Simpleswerk, my television reporter, writes:

Three Labour Party political broadcasts in which the word "socialism" was used were declared illegal in the High Court yesterday. Mr Justice Dainford ruled that they infringed regulations, introduced at the same time as the latest economic strategy, which prohibit the use of the word in relation to the Labour Party.

The case arose from a protest by Eric Butler, leader of the Tribune Group of Left-wing MPs. The judge, in his summing up, said that the Labour Party thought their product resembled socialism in many ways, but this was disputed by Butler and his fellow Tribuneans.

Ever since the 1930s the party had undertaken an advertising campaign on the theme: "Can you tell Labour from socialism?" The judge said that although no sensible person could seriously confuse the two

products, the regulations had to be interpreted rigorously.

A furious Robert Mellish, Labour's Chief Whip, said yesterday: "We do not accept this decision one iota. The trouble with the Left is that they do not know what side their bread is buttered on, if you'll pardon the pun. I shall fight this all the way to the House of Lords and beyond. If necessary, I shall fight it to the House of Commons and beyond, if necessary."

### Trompe-l'oeil

Barrington Bramley is a Leeds art teacher who has spent the last five years meticulously copying all 35 known works of the Dutch artist Vermeer.

Now a group of businessmen in Delft, the old master's home town, want to buy the collection and put it on permanent display. Bramley first caught the attention of the Dutch when he exhibited his copies at a gallery in Hilkey to mark the 300th anniversary of Vermeer's death. The show went to Holland and has been on display for a month in a Delft theatre. Bramley has been summoned to Holland this weekend to be made an offer: he thinks the starting price should be about £14,000.

"I did not set out to make forgeries; the copies are exact in every detail but are signed with my own name," he said. "I did it as a kind of apprenticeship with the old master, and I now intend to become a painter in my own right."

He had to work from photographs and reproductions. Vermeer's originals are so scattered that to mount an exhibition of them would be difficult.

GI suppose we can't blame the gnomes of Lago...



High life

In spite of (or perhaps because of) our financial decline, London remains a suitable centre for the sale of extraordinarily expensive property. That, at least, is the fervent hope of the owners of the Galleria, New York's most costly apartment building. Yesterday Savills, a Mayfair estate agent, held a discreet little party to celebrate the building's sale to a British agency for the property. The hope is that wealthy international firms will be persuaded to invest between £40,000 and £170,000 in a cosy

pied-à-terre for the near the fleshest shops of Fun City sale would be of penthouse on the floor, built for a million, but in the could not afford it.

David Ker of Savills was "i describe"—and if estate agent there point in anyone a was, he said, "de tropically"—which the run rises in then shifts to room and follows round all day.

Ker's main hop might well be to wealthy Arabs w his firm. To my s Arabs might not in what is primar city he responded to be protected by security. A coll eated on this to me like Sing Si fided. So, if any £170,000 to £18,000 a year faucies living in Sing Sing... of

The documents committee of Bri group monies computer data. fly provided its "documentation" to staff. Docu recorded in the states the inter activity and t taly ongoing, but tude transient in you know.















## Corporate liquidity continues to improve

By Tim Congdon

Company liquidity improved again in the fourth quarter of last year. Total current assets of 214 companies surveyed by the Department of Industry increased by £115m, while total current liabilities decreased by £213m, according to figures published in today's *Trade and Industry*.

The companies' liquidity ratio (the ratio between their total current assets and their total current liabilities) increased from 68 per cent in the third quarter to 74 per cent in the fourth.

This ratio has risen steadily since the worst point of the liquidity crisis in 1974. In the third quarter of that year it stood at 42 per cent, and in the fourth quarter 47 per cent. However, the analysis in *Trade and Industry* points out that, although the rise in the liquidity ratio during 1975 was substantial, it still is only at about the same level as at the end of the first quarter of 1974.

At the end of 1974 company liquidity had fallen to a level similar to that in 1970-71. Recovery in company liquidity has occurred despite a continuing financial deficit for the corporate sector. It would seem that the financial difficulties incurred by companies at present are predominantly illiquid in character, such as issues of new equity capital, and have not prevented an improvement in their overall financial structures.

Holdings of nearly all types of liquid assets increased in the fourth quarter. One feature was that the net acquisition of Treasury bills was on an unusually large scale, reflecting the favourable interest differential available on these instruments for much of the period. Bank deposits rose only slightly. Overdrafts were repaid on a large scale. Advances from deposit and other banks fell by £216m (before seasonal adjustment), following falls of £272m in the third quarter and £313m in the second quarter.

## Warning over premature cut in home loan rates

By Margaret Stone

Mr. Raymond Potter, chairman of Halifax, Britain's largest building society, yesterday warned of the dangers of a premature reduction in building society interest rates.

"By the very nature of our contract with our borrowers it is not possible to change interest rates at the drop of a hat," he said.

"If we make a premature reduction, which might have to be reversed later in the year, it could be a very expensive operation."

Mr. Potter was referring in particular to the customary time-lag which occurs between increasing the investment rate and the subsequent but delayed increase in the mortgage rate.

As is already known the Building Societies Association, of which Mr. Potter is also chairman, will be discussing interest rates at its monthly meeting on April 9. In view of this, Mr. Potter added a disclaimer to his comments.

"This is not to preclude what may or may not happen in April. It is simply to spell out the difference between ourselves and other financial institutions."

Mr. Potter concluded that the Halifax was starting 1976 in a strong position after a record year during which the society's assets increased by 21.5 per cent to £5,577m. Advances rose from £621.7m in 1974-75 to £961.9m in respect of 123,584 mortgages of which 40.3 per cent went to people with incomes of £3,000 or below.

## April 5 move for Companies House

By Our Financial Staff

A major step in the modernisation of Companies House, the repository of some 120 years of corporate history contained in over 20 million of shelf space, will be taken on April 5 when the office begins its move to the Maindy building in Cardiff.

In a seven-phase transfer to be completed by the end of the year, the task of registering, storing and chasing documentation on the United Kingdom's 643,000 limited companies will be transferred from City Road, London. From April 5, registration of new companies—which has reached a peak of 60,000 a year—and change of names will be handled in Cardiff.

## UK's ills due to 'political expediency'

By Clifford Webb

Mr. Terry Beckett, chairman and managing director of Ford, Britain's best night attack politicians who "repeatedly put political expediency ahead of the economy". The result was an economy now in a serious position and Britain left way behind continental competitors.

Mr. Beckett, who was delivering the 1976 MacLaren Memorial Lecture at the University of Aston in Birmingham, said the reasons why we have taken such a different approach to economic life from our competitors was a matter of real concern.

He gave warning that Britain had been on course for absolute disaster. "We came within an ace of hyperinflation and industrial collapse last year."

Despite this it seemed from the recent White Paper on public expenditure that parts of the government machine had only now woken up to the full consequences of this collective madness. Britain had ignored what others accepted, namely that it was productivity which produced wealth.

Politicians had mounted a concerted campaign against all profit. The administrators of price control said sacrifices had to be made to control inflation, but in so doing they misunderstood the crucial generative function of profit.

"This kind of thing is nonsense," Mr. Beckett said. "We have an investment project now we cannot proceed with, in spite of the fact that it would cost us only £200,000 and would save £1m in a year. But under our present pricing regulations with their productivity deductions there would be no return. In fact we should lose £300,000 a year by proceeding with the project."

Industry was being urged to invest to prepare for "boom times, but it had not invested during the upswing in 1972 and 1973 and the reasons why were not complicated. The banks had money available, but industry could not see a prospect of making a return which would service the loan let alone eventually discharge the debt.

This chronic lack of confidence, a trend for 15 years, could only be halted by a change in national attitudes to profit.

From April 12 the most controversial part of the move—the replacement of individual files by microfilm copies—will begin with the installation of 322 viewing machines in the public reading rooms.

The lists containing the names and registered numbers of the 643,000 companies have already been put on microfilm. The microfilm system will be fully operational within a year.

From July the original files will be transferred to Cardiff, where along with microfilm facilities they will be available for public inspection.

From October documents by post should be lodged in Cardiff, although it will still be possible to lodge documents by person in either centre.

Pamphlets—and advertising notices in the press explaining the phasing of the move and the new procedures—will appear next week. The recent Companies Bill introduced much stiffer penalties for directors who failed persistently to file annual returns and accounts.

The microfilm copies of documents available in London, comprising about 83 per cent of companies on the register, contain returns and accounts for only the past three years and changes of directors for only the past seven years.

But there will be a number of advantages under the new system. When the system is established, waiting time for files should be reduced to a quarter of an hour.

A postal service, providing purchasers with microfilm copies for use by companies or individuals, will begin next year. This will be faster and cheaper than the present photocopying system at Companies House.

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## Yarn makers end EEC anti-trust battle

From David Cross

Brussels, March 11. A long anti-trust battle between leading British and French knitting yarn manufacturers has ended, the European Commission announced today.

The dispute centred on whether Les Filles de Loup Mulliez SA, of Roubaix, should be allowed to market its goods on the British market.

Sirdar Ltd, of Wakefield, fought a long battle through the British courts to try to prevent the French company from using the Philidar trade mark in Britain alongside its own Sirdar brand.

The case dated from 1964, when the two companies agreed that they would refrain from marketing products under their own trade marks on the other's national market.

But after 1973, when Britain joined the Community, the French company decided that the agreement was void because it infringed the Community's anti-trust rules. When it began selling yarns on the British market under the Philidar trade mark, Sirdar brought an

action before the High Court in London.

In the meantime the European Commission's anti-trust department decided that geographical market sharing was not justified even if the two trade marks could be regarded as confusingly similar. It issued a preliminary decision to this effect in March last year.

Shortly after, the High Court in London dismissed Sirdar's application for an interim injunction seeking to prevent the French company from using its trade mark in Britain. The High Court also decided that the trade marks were not confusingly similar.

Sirdar pursued its case further and the Commission subsequently opened formal legal proceedings against the two companies for an alleged breach of Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome.

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## Why managers must make an effort to educate the community

From Dr D. P. Moody

Sir, Grateful as I am for the amount of space you devoted to the National Convention of the British Institute of Management, I have to take issue with the unfortunate wording of the fourth paragraph of the piece on March 6. I write as a person who provided many of the words for the rejected motion B and whose comments thereon were quoted by your reporters.

Rodney Cowton wrote on Monday that "There may be, in certain circumstances, a cleavage between the voice of top management and those of other managers". I can assure Mr Cowton that there is no "may" about it: a cleavage took place on the very topic of wording motions for the convention.

Many of the motions first suggested, including those of the branch of the B.I.M. were two-liners. We were told by our top managers that this kind of motion would be unacceptable and some of the supporting arguments had to be put in. That is why branches padded their motions. Rather than composing sense, the same top managers accumulated word strings to give even bulkier motions.

Each of which contained so many issues as to be practically unworkable on a single yes/no vote. We were told on the day that no amendment from the floor was allowed.

Thus it was not possible to remove a single unacceptable item from a motion. I find totally unacceptable a militant demanding posture in the matter of financial rewards. That many managers deserve in-

creased rewards is not in dispute since the Diamond Committee reported, but there is a gap between deserving and demanding. I asked the convention to consider the weight of that one point and if they felt that one point and if they felt that demonstrating their responsibilities in that one matter was more important than agreeing "by a large" with all the others, they should vote against the motion. I voted against the motion for that reason and that reason only. To my certain knowledge, so did many other managers present. We were categorically not rejecting the idea that managers must recognise their wider responsibilities.

It cannot be doubted that the bulk of the voters in this country have no true picture, or even an approximate picture, of the complexity of the management task, or the effort and skill demanded by it, or of the value of managers to the community. If managers get impatient enough and do not bother to educate that bulk of voters, the pendulum will swing in their favour, only to swing back again when it swings back again.

We are still reaping the results of the bitterness created between the voters by owners and managers who demanded managers' best hope (however weak it may be and however long it takes) for improving their position is to educate the community. When they find themselves pushing at an open door in the matter of just reward.

I believe that many managers voting against motion B were also telling our top managers in no uncertain terms to change their motion in time for the next convention. And I believe that, to the credit of our

## When full employment had to be earned and guarded

From Mr H. W. Juniper

Sir, If Miss Sargent will re-read *Full Employment in a Free Society* she will find that Sir William Beveridge, as he then was, made it quite clear that "full employment" was not, as is now commonly imagined, an entitlement but was something to be earned and guarded.

He laid down at least four rules:

(1) A good day's work for a fair day's pay.

(2) Abolition of all restrictive practices.

(3) Willingness to change jobs as circumstances required.

(4) That unions should not overplay their hands.

These rules have been almost entirely ignored and most people do not even know that they were laid down. Far too many, during the postwar reconstruction, came to believe that "full employment" was just some magic which made it no longer necessary to work well

enough to be sure of keeping a job.

As the rules were never kept, all governments since that time have considered it to be electorally necessary to aim at full employment by acceptance of inflationary policies and wage demands. These in the short term may be good for domestic trade but are disastrous for our export trade and for our balance of payments.

Unions have now priced many of their members out of jobs. Would they not be wise to begin to price them in again?

Someone who has to realize something that it is an economic impossibility for everyone, in real terms, to be better off every year and that money incomes are inevitably inflationary when there is, as usual, no quid pro quo.

Yours faithfully,  
H. W. JUNIPER,  
St. Valery,  
Herbert Road,  
Barnstaple, Devon.  
March 5.

to underwrite the reputation of official standards of the company.

The distinguished non-executive director says, in effect, "this company is sound and decent and I am quite content that the public should associate my name with this company."

It is this personal ethical statement which the non-executive director makes. In many ways such directors are more properly responsible, in my convention, for allowing misdirection than is any firm of auditors.

Yours faithfully,  
G. M. BERESFORD  
Beresford Hartwell and Associates,  
Chartered Engineers and Designers,  
7 Beddington Gardens,  
Wimbledon, Surrey.  
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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

## The next step for interest rates

It is a sense of déjà vu that has gripped the market just as it did in 1975. The question of how much interest rates will rise has been asked many times. The answer has been given many times. The answer is: it will rise. The answer is: it will rise. The answer is: it will rise.



Sir Frank McFadden, chairman of Shell, Transport and Trading, earnings gain from sterling depreciation.

problem, of course, is the necessity to finance the deficit for 1976/77 projected to be as big as £11,500m. It is from sterling's present position that there is no hope for a contraction in the deficit between the United Kingdom and the rest of the world without the current account under further pressure, and the outlook in the short term for sterling is not bright.

Even such bursts of optimism as the Treasury's bill, which was passed last week, are unlikely to be enough to finance the deficit. The Treasury's bill, which was passed last week, is a measure to increase the borrowing limit to £11,500m. It is a measure to increase the borrowing limit to £11,500m. It is a measure to increase the borrowing limit to £11,500m.

nationalization profits

Corporation did well in its second half. It is a measure to increase the borrowing limit to £11,500m. It is a measure to increase the borrowing limit to £11,500m. It is a measure to increase the borrowing limit to £11,500m.

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prices for crude but against this there have been price increases outside North America in 1976. Another major cash drain in 1975 was the 15 laid-up tankers of which 9 are VLCCs but the Ecol refinery in Louisiana, which comes on stream at the end of this year, should absorb around 80 per cent of the spare capacity by around mid-1977.

The very modest increase in sales values last year—5 per cent to £14,422m—partly reflects a decision to reduce market share at the heavy end of the barrel and to concentrate on the higher end (especially domestic oil and chemicals feedstocks) where margins are better.

So, there are various pointers to volume growth for Royal Dutch/Shell this year but what is the price of Shell? T & T up at the moment (and BP for that matter) is the assumed boost to overseas earnings from sterling depreciation. Last year sterling depreciation obviously had a substantial, though unquantified, effect on the group's earnings.

Final: 1975 (1974)  
Capitalization £55m  
Sales £14,422m  
Net income £950m (£1,093m)  
Earnings per share 50.61p (72.67p)  
Dividend gross 19.655p (18.189p)  
Shell T & T

Ultramar

A rights after all

Yesterday's package from Ultramar took in new financing moves, an increase in 1975 profits of almost 28 per cent, and a somewhat bearish forecast for 1976.

The group has, however, taken steps to stave off any consequent hunger for funds by going some way to boost the equity base and thereby providing itself with a better case for increasing its debt, which has risen from £60m to £91m over the past year.

Since Ultramar does not pay dividends, a straight equity issue was out of the question: the discount on the market would have had to be prohibitive.

At last night's price for the ordinary conversion price for the new preferred shares was just over 93p: so there is no danger of shareholders claiming to convert the final date to leave the issue as an addition to debt. On conversion the share premium account will rise to boost the equity base; and in the meantime a relatively low tax charge means that the net 7 per cent coupon is less onerous than it sounds.

How to value the new stock is, however, something of a puzzle, with no income bearing equity for comparison: but feeling in the market last night was that, despite the somewhat patchy experience on the underwriting—since some institutions are happier than others about receiving income net—they would accept at a premium.

Final: 1975 (1974)  
Capitalization £59m  
Sales £27,320m (£21,470m)  
Pre-tax profits £20.1m (£15.7m)  
Earnings per share 40.9p (35.5p)

Amalgamated Investment & Property yesterday became the latest, and most notable victim of the property market crash. The group, which in terms of the £210m book value of its portfolio was rated as the country's eighth largest property company, is to be put into compulsory liquidation.

Despite the carefully worded announcements promising "an orderly liquidation" of the group's properties, the news, with its implications of a right-angled turn in the policy of the banks towards the stricken property developers, will have sent a shudder of horror throughout the sector.

It is easy to see that at a time when it seems that the property market is recovering some of its old buoyancy, and while that may at first glance appear incongruous, it is in fact quite logical. The banks' willingness to support ailing property companies will clearly decline in direct ratio to those companies' ability to repay their debt.

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Against that background must be set the huge weight of short-term debt accumulated by the

ward. Some of the Post Office's individual lines of debt, already known, but how is the overall pattern of telephone use likely to emerge?

Mr Merriman's view ahead from the Post Office, as described before the Institution of Electrical Engineers this week, includes the following points:

In technology, the move away from electromechanical exchanges towards processor-controlled microelectronic digital exchanges is already under way. Transmission systems will exploit the new technologies of waveguides and fibre optics.

New techniques of broadband communication will penetrate not only trunk and junction systems but also the tendrils of the local distribution network.

The services that will be provided are likely to embrace not only voice-to-voice communication, but also data, facsimile, and group communications as well as access to information, facts, figures and pictures—and even, Mr Merriman suggests, "half-formed hypotheses for information, for challenge and for education."

Border lines between the technologies of computing, control, communications, entertainment and education will become increasingly indistinct, with profound effects on the services they sustain.

The cost of the main arteries of long-distance transmission, on present scientific knowledge, should continue to decrease significantly. National transmission networks around the year 2000 will probably contain extrapolations of present systems, "thick route" inter-city waveguides and local

But the Bell centenary is a useful point from which to look forward as well as backward.

the TUC general council. Then 29, she was the youngest person to have sat on the council. Last year she became the fifth woman to chair the TUC.

Her union is the biggest in the country. The T & G has more than 1.8 million members, of whom about 287,000 are women—there being more women in the smaller National Union of Public Employees.

Yesterday's anti-WTUC motion was not, however, the only manifestation of discontent at Southport. There was, for example, pressure from members of the Equal Pay and Opportunity Campaign, many of them women journalists, who were saying that few unions have exploited the new legislation on behalf of their women members as far as they might.

Mrs Patterson and the T & G, however, came off quite well. An EPOC survey gives her union a pat on the back for working hard to recruit women and for bringing home to the membership the fresh scope for improving the position of women at work.

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Robert Solomon is leaving the Federal Reserve Board after 19 years. He says he has no specific plans beyond research and writing, although probably the commercial banks will soon be knocking at his door, offering directorships and high-paid consultancies.

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## No rescue for Amalgamated Investment & Property

property companies in the boom days of the early 1970s. As much as £3,000m may still be locked into property in the form of short-term high-cost loans, loans which a number of the over-enthusiastic developers just cannot afford to service or repay.

Property companies are postponing as much as £450m of interest payments a year, mortgaging their futures because of past misjudgments and testing the patience of creditors who have so far had little option but to agree to interest moratoria and continue providing on-going development capital in the hope that everything will come right in the end.

The great danger, highlighted by AIP's collapse, is that those patient creditors, seeing that it is again possible to find buyers for a property company's assets, may now decide that enough is enough, cut their losses and leave the developers to sink.

The famous Stern, Lyon Group and Guardian Property crashes of 1974 provide little guidance to the present situation. For the properties held by AIP and Stern are quite dissimilar. AIP's portfolio is the classic pattern of a high quality commercial property investment and development group. They were overvalued, self-evidently, but of good quality for all that.

The bulk of the Stern portfolio, on the other hand, was either residential or secondary commercial, the kind of properties which changed hands between property companies during the days of the boom rather than those which found pension fund or insurance company buyers. It is hardly surprising that the mass of these secondary properties will sprout new rather than looking "for sale" boards and figure large in the hands of Mr Kenneth Cork.

Hopes that AIP will be able to sell off its properties in an orderly fashion may not, therefore, be unfounded. Even

before its collapse the company had been selling to de-gear at an impressive rate. By the time of its annual general meeting earlier this year AIP was able to report £34m of sales since its March year-end. The chairman, Peter Osberg, reports that an additional £17m has been sold since then.

That does, however, leave properties with a book value of more than £150m to be sold, and £150m could seriously distort a market where the annual institutional off-take of properties amounts to only about £750m.

Worrying

The possibility of market saturation is a worrying one even for property companies without the more immediate fear of losing their creditors' support. But this single mass forced sale—as long as it does not preface a whole series of major collapses—may not be as disastrous for the market as it first appears.

For one thing, the 1973 valuations of AIP's properties significantly overstate their saleable value. AIP itself accepts that there will be insufficient funds to pay all creditors in full at the end of the day, so the expected sale proceeds must be less than the group's £124m borrowings.

The investment properties, which make up about two thirds of the overall portfolio, could be overvalued by as much as 30 per cent, possibly more in a forced sale situation. As for the £50m or so of developments, many of these, although completed, remain unsold. So they will first have to be re-sold before they can be sold, and even then the price tags on the large schemes—the 166,000 sq ft Amalgamated House in Trinity Square, EC3, must alone be worth more than £20m even on a conservative valuation—include all but the largest institutional buyers.

The nature of the portfolio therefore suggests that dis-

posals will be spread over a long period, but that in the end most of the buildings will be absorbed by the institutions. There is consequently little danger of a serious sustained relapse in the physical property market.

The stockmarket is another matter entirely. AIP's collapse has frightened all but the most cautious optimists from the speculative end of the property sector. But here again the outlook may not be as bleak as it appears.

AIP was forced to cease trading because it could see no hope of repaying its creditors even if it continued trading and completed and let its whole development programme. Only one or two of the stricken developers are in as bad a position, as many have a sufficiently large conventional element in their investment properties to see some light at the end of the tunnel, even if that light is five or more years away.

That is not to say that there will not be further collapses

within the sector, but the stockmarket already knows which companies are in deep trouble and their shares are rarely accordingly or have been left exclusively to the gamblers.

For AIP itself yesterday's news ends a period of growth covering two decades, and during most of that time the group has held a "planned" stock image within the investment community. Under the management of the late Gabriel Harrison AIP was built up through acquisitions and development into one of the country's most eminent property companies, whose shares reached 435p in the heady days of the 1972 bull market.

Spectacular

In the early 1970s AIP launched a spectacular development programme eventually reported to be worth more than £80m. Short-term borrowings freely available from British, American and European banks were poured into schemes throughout Britain and the Continent.

When the property boom finally burst at the end of 1973 AIP was left with a mass of half-completed buildings and an interest bill that forced it more than £10m into the red last year.

When Mr Harrison died last year the company's development programme was largely completed. But the buildings came on at a time when there were few tenants able or willing to take new space, and none willing to pay the level of rents which would have enabled AIP to make a rental profit, or even break-even on the buildings after paying interest costs.

With little prospect of an early solution to this problem, and getting deeper and deeper in debt to its creditors, AIP has had no option but to throw in the towel.

John Brennan

The late Mr Gabriel Harrison: he built up AIP into one of the country's leading property groups.

## The world's most complex machine

Kenneth Owen  
Technology  
Correspondent

exchange itself. Dispersed, sub-controlled elements of the exchange may be housed in community areas, in large subscribers' premises.

A conflict could arise from the different lifetimes for microelectronic products for telecommunications and for other applications. For telecommunications, the lifetime is typically 20 to 25 years; for other products, it is five to seven years.

The design process for telecommunications systems will therefore be affected by such factors as rapid obsolescence of existing components and improved performance of new devices in microelectronics. Increasingly modular design may result.

Together with changing technology comes the influence of changing need. The introduction of the various teletext services (including the very significant Viewdata, which links the telephone with the television set) already gives an indication here.

Telex, Datel and Facsimile are the forerunners of many other services. One can expect a demand for office-to-office communication transmission, either direct from dictation or between keyboard machines (or between data stores).

A demand for overnight, automatic document handling

and transmission is also likely. Increasingly, the domestic television display tube will be used as a display device for news, messages or data retrieval.

Another demand, already emerging, is for group telecommunications, as an extension of the existing person-to-person links. This could be for business conferences, or for smaller groups where mutual discussion and interaction is needed. It seems a simple step forward from the existing normal public service, but in fact poses difficult technical problems.

Overall, Mr Merriman suggests, the greatest external influences on technological development will be those which arise from growth—whether of new customers, traffic levels or additional services.

This growth, Sir Edward Fennessy, Post Office deputy chairman, predicts, will take the number of world telephones from 400 million to perhaps 1,500 million by the end of this century. Annual traffic will grow from 280,000 million calls to more than a billion.

The total system will be almost completely automatic and a wide range of ancillary services will be carried on the main network.

ORION

## Substantial Growth in 1975

- Consolidated pre-tax profits £7,370,000 (1974 £4,869,000)
- Total assets increase to £717,176,000 (1974 £550,043,000)
- Share Capital and Reserves increase to £27,680,000 (1974 £23,700,000)
- Financings managed or co-managed including public issues, private placements, Eurocurrency syndicated loans and project financing, aggregated US \$ 1,124,470,000

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## Business Diary: Shell's Pocock • WTUC's Mrs Patterson



Marie Patterson, beside the seaside this year and next year, too.

line to the top jobs in national oil industry and since the days of the Middle East officials and the dominance of the oil industry. Nowadays, accountants, lawyers, and other professionals who inhabit the office. Michael, the chairman of the Shell Centre on the South Bank has been one of these routes, however, is the first personnel to the top.

His first job at Shell was in industrial relations at the company's subsidiary. Later he joined the group that included the McKinsey report

personnel jobs he held senior positions in the company. In 1972, he gave up the personnel work to become chairman of the Shell Centre on the South Bank.

He has been a managing director of the Royal Dutch/Shell group since 1970.

His voice

thought fitting if 1976, the year of the Equal Pay and the Sex Discrimination Acts, had seen the end of this separatist and no some, discriminatory, event.

Mrs Patterson, who has in the past spoken against such a proposal to abolish the WTUC "until it was replaced by something better" is, however, not one of the labour movement's old guard. She is one of the newer breed of union officials, a graduate who swiftly rose to influence.

Mrs Patterson became national women officer of the Transport & General Workers' in 1963 and in the same year became the statutory woman on

the TUC general council. Then 29, she was the youngest person to have sat on the council. Last year she became the fifth woman to chair the TUC.

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Solomon, who became a top adviser on international affairs to the board of the Fed, and took leave in 1963 and 1964 to become senior staff economist

of the Council of Economic Advisers, played a key role in the years after his return to the Group of Ten, and can claim to be one of the architects of the post-war economic order.

He was for some years the Fed's Director of International Finance and its top adviser on the international developments relating directly to domestic American money policy decisions by the Fed's open market committee. Between 1972 and 1974 he served as the vice-chairman of the Committee of 20 on monetary reform and many of the important decisions taken in Jamaica in January's IMF meeting are the result of his work.

Solomon has travelled widely, constantly representing the Fed at international meetings, including the tough Working Party Three sessions at the OECD in Paris. He will be missed at the Fed, but at 55 he probably feels it's time for a change. If it's a book he means to write, then he ought to make fascinating reading.

AA's gold

The AA held a small celebration yesterday to mark the issuing of the 20 millionth key for opening those handy yellow telephone boxes by the roadside. The key was gold-plated, much too large to fit into a real lock, and was given by the people who make the keys to Lord Erroll, chairman of the AA, who immediately presented it to the association's museum at Basingstoke.

The AA key design, has changed only three times in

more than 50 years and the present combination has been in use since 1947, when the AA and the RAC agreed to share their keys interchangeably.

Lord Erroll revealed that the first keys were used to open members' bulletin boards in hotels, wherein they could find up-to-date information on all the local police and fire stations at the presentation lunch in London agreed that it was high time the service was restored.

Another small but useful service which no longer exists was the stamping of the member's serial number on his key, so that if he lost his entire bunch there was a good chance of its being returned to him. But the AA has grown much too big for those courteous touches from a more leisurely age of motoring: if the patrolmen still saluted every passing member their arms would drop off in no time.

Japanese business politeness was taken to extraordinary lengths at Tokyo international airport, where civil service officials told seven airlines at midday that they were coming to search their offices for evidence of fare under-cutting on Japan-United States tickets at 4.15 pm the same afternoon.

Not surprisingly, when officials arrived at Narita, Pan Am, Japan Airlines, Air France, Varig, China Airlines and Korean Airlines very little evidence was to be found.



## BUSINESS BOOKS

## Peering over the precipice...

Capitalism in Crisis  
by Andrew Gamble  
and Paul Walton

(Macmillan, £9.95: hardback; £2.95 paperback)  
Economic ideas, like the economy itself, tend to go in cycles. This is just as true of contributions to the strand of thinking usually called "Marxism" as it is of those which broadly accept the virtues of a capitalist society. During the 1930s, the great slump seemed to provide triumphant vindication of Marx's predictions of collapse, and led to the increasing revolution against classical economics, which had suggested that such an event could never happen.

In the 25 years following the Second World War, the remarkable growth of the western economies reversed the positions of the two philosophies. Keynesian demand management seemed to have led us into a stable and ever more prosperous world, while Marxist academics, such as Paul Baran, tried to come up with a new explanation of

how capitalism had provided full employment through the use of a large state sector. We are now, perhaps, in another phase of transition. On the "capitalist" side, there is growing evidence of interest in a counter-Keynesian revolution, which looks back to tight monetary control and a cut in the size of the public sector, and often argues that we must accept a higher level of unemployment. On the Marxist left, on the other hand, there is once again an interest in predicting the breakdown of the present economic structure and far less is written about the frightening implications of a classless, all-providing capitalist state.

The new elements are, of course, inflation and the recession which has both accompanied and been heightened by it. This book provides a fairly detailed guided tour, with a definite Marxist slant, through writings by economists on topics such as the theory of value, the Keynesian revolution and the writers in the 1960s who produced a description of modern industrial society aimed

above all at explaining the emergence and success of large corporations. As such it is usually readable and often provoking. The authors are particularly good in explaining the thesis of Paul Baran and Paul Sweezy, who looked on the ever-intensifying marketing efforts of corporations and the large arms expenditure of the United States as the two mechanisms which provided the only barrier to another slump caused by lack of demand.

Such an explanation is clearly unsatisfactory for our own times because in the past five years we have come up against quite a different set of problems. The book begins with a rather lurid description of the economic and political crisis facing Britain, which bears eloquent testimony to the problems caused by the delays inherent in publishing. Many of the key phenomena involved, such as the rise of middle class private armies and the collapse of the Stock Exchange, are far less striking now than they were early in 1975, and by overstatement the extent of present prob-

lems the authors weaken their case. That case is that, in the modern world, the capitalist state finds itself caught in a fatal contradiction. In order to provide full employment, the state must print money and create inflation. Given that, for the authors, the prospect of slump is far more important than worries about inflation, that does lead them to argue that the present system is, in some sense, unstable.

Just what that sense is remains unclear. For in a last chapter on political prospects the authors concede that by a mixture of good luck and good judgment it might well be possible to go on with a mixed economy, as long as government plays its part carefully in seeking to keep the system in balance. We are left, indeed, with little more firm evidence for change than the assumption that people must realize that there are better ways of organizing these things.

David Blake

## Cultivating the inner man

The Businessman  
in Public  
by Kenneth Hudson

(Associated Business Programmes, £5.95)  
Most of us (including businessmen) see ourselves as essentially lovable, perhaps slightly helpless, folk and we are hurt that others do not share that perception of us.

When this problem is extended from the individual to a company or an industry, or some other large institution, then public relations men will be employed to rectify the matter, but there are limits to what they can achieve. In the end, the public's opinion of industry or commerce is likely to depend to a large extent on the personal performances of

its leaders, and Mr Hudson's book is aimed at improving their public persona. While his advice is well intended, it is by no means certain that it will be equally well received, for a large part of it consists of a series of homilies in which businessmen are urged to become more rounded personalities; to cultivate a wider circle of acquaintances; to read more; to spend at least an hour a week browsing in a bookshop. Above all they are urged to improve their use of the English language.

For those readers who manage to wade through this welter of exhortation, there are some quite valuable tips to be found on how to approach a television interview or deal with journalists.

W. R.

A view from  
the bridgeFrom Pills to  
PenicillinThe Beecham Story  
by H. G. Lazell

(Heinemann, £4.90)  
We have the late Professor Sir Ronald Edwards to thank for Mr Lazell's lively and highly personalized account of the rise of the Beecham Group. Sir Ronald, the author's successor as chairman of Beecham, pressed Mr Lazell to write a Beecham book and, if it is not quite what the professor had in mind, it is just what the doctor ordered.

Mr Lazell, thank heaven, declined to play the historian and instead wrote "My own biased story," and what a story it is! Mr Lazell portrays himself as the lad who began as a bookie's clerk, qualified as an accountant in the evenings and then figured his way through the corridors of public school boys and fathers' sons baring his way to the top.

His own father died of enteric fever, an infection now easily tamed by a Beecham drug. While the Beechams could live, uncertain and serve on their lighty-taxed salaries, girl packers were either promoted or fired on their eighteenth birthdays when they qualified for full pay.

But Mr Lazell's story of the group's progress from keeping hair in place to saving lives is far from grim. The path led him and the company through the parlours of countless provincial clients, through whose hazy butt conceptions are household words yet.

Who, but for Mr Lazell, would have known that the family who brewed Fynnon Salt kept their correspondence in the grand piano?

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The first machine used for making Beecham's pills.

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## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

## Stock markets

## Property crash offsets no-change MLR

Encouraged at first by the Bank of England's more optimistic view of the balance of payments, the market soon became very nervous on a widespread rumour that the Bank of England was to raise the Minimum Lending Rate and call for special deposits to mop up the all-in pound. Glits bore the brunt.

But as the allotted time of 12.30 pm came and went without incident the tension eased and prices held firm, additionally helped by a steady tone in the currency market. Lane in the reverse again and between 3 pm and the close the FT Index lost 2.2 for a final figure of 411.8, a drop of 2.3 on the day.

Property shares were particularly weak under the two-pronged attack of the threat of dearer money and the news that Amalgamated Investment

down. However, a recovery emerged and losses on the day were mostly 1 point.

The weakness of the property market was reflected by Hamersley down 5p to 355p, Land Securities 3p to 174p, Bernard Sunley 3p to 130p, Great Portland 2p to 232p and Land and House 2p to 78p. British Land traded easier at 30p, while Town & Commercial gave up a penny to 10p with the loan stock also weaker.

The industrial leaders were erratic with Glaxo moving back to 200p, while British American Tobacco, still leading the field and up 7p to 385p, and Fisons which shed 5p to 390p. Between these extremes were ICI, which held on to its peak 40p, Beecham up 3p to 363p, Glaxo 3p to 380p, Rank A 2p to 150p and Unilever 2p to 450p.

As predicted here, Shell's results were to be better expected than the market had anticipated. After an initial dip to 407p in front of the figures, the shares closed 31p better to 414p.

Surprising right issue terms had Ultramar down 7p to 176p elsewhere in the sector, while the continuing feeling that Government terms for the M1000 were not quite what was expected left Barclay's down another penny to 47p. BR were also off a penny, at 612p.

The mixed tone spread into the engineering where Hawker Siddeley shed 3p to 424p and GKN was up 3p to 344p. Against the background of MLR and special deposits rumours the banks spent a quiet day with Barclays 28p, National Westminster 25p and Lloyds 22p all unmoved. The exception was Midland where there was an advance of two points to 280p.

Elsewhere in financials, the centre of interest was again insurance brokers. Sedgwick Forster went up better to 260p, Leslie & Godwin, still with takeover talk in the air, put on another 5p to 131p, and Heath improved by no less than 10p to 285p.

Both English China Clays 3p to 1001p and Rolls Royce 1p to 701p improved on overseas earnings potential, but Lucas Industries came back 3p to 227p after recent firmness. The bid for Polygram had Stigwood

up 35p to 451p, while sympathetic support for MAMs firmed the price 5p to 66p.

In buildings, Tarmac, thought to be in a good position to go on the takeover trail, rose 9p to 195p. Marshfield continued to draw strength from its report and added 2p to 116p, while both Taylor Woodrow 6p to 298p and Laing 3p to 110p, proved to be firm spots.

After a fall in the metal price, gold shares gave up some of earlier 50p rises but this continued to advance. Notable were Geveor 10p to 150p and Gecap 5p to 195p.

The institutions' fresh interest in building shares had made George Wimpey, firm at 65p, a favourite spot. Long-pressed public and private housing and overseas earnings are the attractions and the full-year profits due next month are put conservatively at £40m, against £33.4m.

Favourable reading of the NEDY report on United Kingdom chemicals helped some shares to climb higher. Kapor's 21p to 164p and Croda managed to move up 4p to 634p. Albright & Wilson, however, slipped back 1p to 96p.

## Latest dividends

| Company                      | Ord  | Year | Pay  | Year's | Prev  |
|------------------------------|------|------|------|--------|-------|
| (and par value)              | div  | ago  | date | total  | year  |
| Anglo Asian Corp (£1) Fin    | 8.87 | 8.06 | 25/5 | 12.9   | 12.1  |
| Anglo American Inds (£1) 41p | 37.5 | 37.5 | —    | 2.45   | 2.29  |
| Bombardier (£25) Fin         | 24   | 24   | 25/5 | —      | 34    |
| Coronation (25c) Int         | 1.1  | 1.0  | 23/4 | —      | 330   |
| Dolan Packaging (10p) Int    | 1.1  | 1.1  | —    | —      | 1.73  |
| Free State Geduld (50c) Int  | 0.75 | 0.7  | 2/4  | —      | 0.624 |
| Galileo Brindley (5p) Int    | 0.25 | 0.25 | 2/4  | —      | 2.27  |
| Hammond Gold (50c) Int       | 30   | 30   | 14/5 | 2.42   | 2.17  |
| Harrold & Sheldon            | 1.27 | 1.21 | 1/4  | 2.32   | 3.51  |
| Johnson Group (25p) Fin      | 1.28 | 1.38 | 13/4 | —      | 3.51  |
| Macallan-Glenelg             | 2.1  | 2.1  | 3/5  | —      | 250   |
| Min Masters (50p) Int        | 105  | 125  | —    | —      | 100   |
| Peck Holdings (100)          | 40   | 85   | 12/5 | 135    | 4.29  |
| Peck Steyn (25p) Fin         | 5    | 3.20 | 17/3 | 8.75   | 8.00  |
| Reed (25p) Int               | 6.77 | 6.77 | 17/3 | 12.77  | 11.98 |
| Shell (25p) Int              | 50   | 50   | 25/5 | 42     | 45.8  |
| Tweefontein Ind (50p) Int    | 12.5 | 12.5 | —    | —      | 475   |
| Welkom Gold (50c) Int        | 85   | 85   | —    | —      | 1.51  |
| Western Holdings (50p) Int   | 0.66 | 0.66 | —    | —      | 1.06  |
| Yale Cato (10p) Fin          | 0.66 | 0.66 | —    | —      | —     |

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Where in Business News dividends are shown on a basis of 1.54, a cents a share, adjusted for scrip.

## AMC slide slows down a little

The world-wide slowdown in industrial activity sent the profits of Amalgamated Metal Corporation plummeting in its first nine months.

So it is hardly surprising that the full year's earnings to end December went down 10 per cent. After tumbling 61 per cent at half time, and 60 per cent after nine months, the pre-tax profit for the year dropped 53 per cent to £5.7m. This included income of £1.2m against a debit of £1.37m against a debit of £88,000, the net profit fell less steep, from £4.85m to £3.81m. Earnings a share, before the items, went down from 32.7p to 32p, and, after, from 75.4p to 58.9p.

AMC merged with Consolidated Tin Smelters in June last year. The figures and comparisons have been restated to reflect the merger, effective from the beginning of 1975.

Harris & Sheldon  
tops forecast

After a slip in the first six months Harris & Sheldon picked up sufficiently to finish 1975 with profits well above forecast. Available funds are being used for improving range and for improving management and earnings in the varied sectors.

The 1975 results, expected towards the end of next month, are likely to look better than the 5HK128m attributable loss for 1974-75. But the possibility of a group taking up its option of Hongkong & Whampoa Dock and sell it at current market prices (which would produce a potential gain of some 5HK100m) is also doubted.

Available funds are being used for improving range and for improving management and earnings in the varied sectors.

## Orion capital plans

Orion Bank, the London-based consortium bank, is increasing total assets by 30 per cent to £717m last year. The bank is planning to issue 515m of subordinated debentures to its parent banks.

Profits before tax last year were £7.37m, an increase of 51 per cent and earnings went up from £2.44m to £3.56m. The

Hutchison may  
report  
more losses

Financial sources in Hong Kong say that investment group Hutchison International will report a further loss in the nine months to December 31, Reuters cables. Stock market speculation on the group paying a small dividend is also discounted.

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## Galliford Brindley

The Galliford Brindley industrial holding group has pushed its pre-tax profits for the half year to £1.1m, up from £0.7m in the previous period. The group's turnover rose to £16m, against £8.7m. Shareholders will receive a dividend of 1.15p, compared with 1.04p gross.

Johnson Cleaners  
recoups setback

Johnson Group Cleaners more than recouped its 1974 setback with an advance to comfortably exceed profits. On turnover increased from £12.85m to £15.19m for 1975. Pre-tax profit climbed from £1.1m to £1.43m. The "net" rose from £505,000 to £673,000, and it recommends

## Briefly

W. N. SHARPE  
Turnover for 1975, £6.1m (£5.4m), and net profit 1975, £0.7m (£0.4m). Dividend is 4p gross (3.5p).

WILKINSON WARBURTON  
Sales for 1975, £12.28m (£10.5m). Pre-tax profit, £3.07m (£2.00m). Total payment, £3.07m (£2.00m). Maximum permitted, £3.07m (£2.00m). Difficult conditions throughout 1975 are likely to continue into current year board reports.

NORWICH UNION INS  
Group is closing to write fire, accident and motor business in Canada, but will continue with marine business.

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE  
Mr W. R. Ballantyne, chairman, says the plans to set up a new Equity Bank are undesirable. He argues that by itself the new institution would not bring into being new banks, and would appear to give priority to the use of existing capital in situations hitherto closed as less favourable.

Polygram to  
bid £5m for  
R. Stigwood

By Richard Allen  
Mr Robert Stigwood, the entertainment entrepreneur and recent tax exile, has agreed terms for the sale of his show business group Polygram, the Dutch record company.

Polygram, jointly owned by Philips and Siemens, already has 26 per cent of the Robert Stigwood Group. It now by 50p cash per share for the balance of the outstanding equity through its subsidiary, Necess.

The bid values the group at more than £5m. RSG also announced pre-tax profits for the year to the end of September of £898,000 against £775,000 last year. Turnover more than doubled to £15.5m, reflecting the group's policy switch to music and film production with consequent outgoings to third parties.

When talks with Polygram began last month the group, referred to as "creative people", in Britain reflecting high taxation of "creative people", and difficulties in raising finance.

Some OFS cuts  
could be worse

Nor unexpectedly, the O.F.S. Free State gold mine in the Anglo American Corporation camp have reported reduced interim dividends. The low gold price had an inhibitory effect, notwithstanding a valuation of the Rand at R5.50.

Goldcorp is paying 7 cents a share in line with expectations, compared with 10 cents, while President Brand with 105 cents against 125 cents. Anglo American's Steg with 40 cents against 60 cents were both ahead of forecast.

Not so Welkom, which more than halved to 12.5 cents, while Eastern Holdings dipped from 22 cents to 18.5 cents.

Darlow Rand's Harmony paying a final 30 cents, which down 42 cents but nevertheless still ahead of expectations, and finances are sound. They look ahead with cautious optimism.

INTER-CITY INVEST GROUP  
Group has been notified by Ma Union Securities that it no longer has an interest in Inter-City excess 10 per cent.

NEW HIBERNIA INVEST TRUST  
Net asset value at February 27 1976 was 43.2p. Allowance for full conversion of a secured stock, value would be 46.7p.

BLACK AND EDGINGTON  
Camping and leisure group says has bought Glasgow-based GKN Travel, and Spencer West of Kilmarnock, a marquee hire contractor.

ARCULETRIC (HOLDINGS)  
In their annual report the directors say that order books are buoyant and the company is well ahead with cautious optimism.

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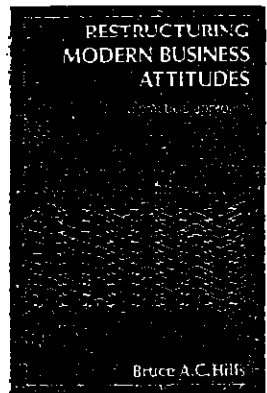
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RESTRUCTURING  
MODERN BUSINESS  
ATTITUDES  
a practical approach  
Bruce A.C. Hills

This book is an invitation to look again at the way business is structured, to examine the causes of weakness—a weakness made manifest in the strikes, sit-ins and financial failures that are regular occupants of the front pages of the daily press—and to introduce a new concept in design which will help to eradicate this weakness. The principles underlying the new design have been proved correct in practice. £5.50 net.

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## BUSINESS BOOKS

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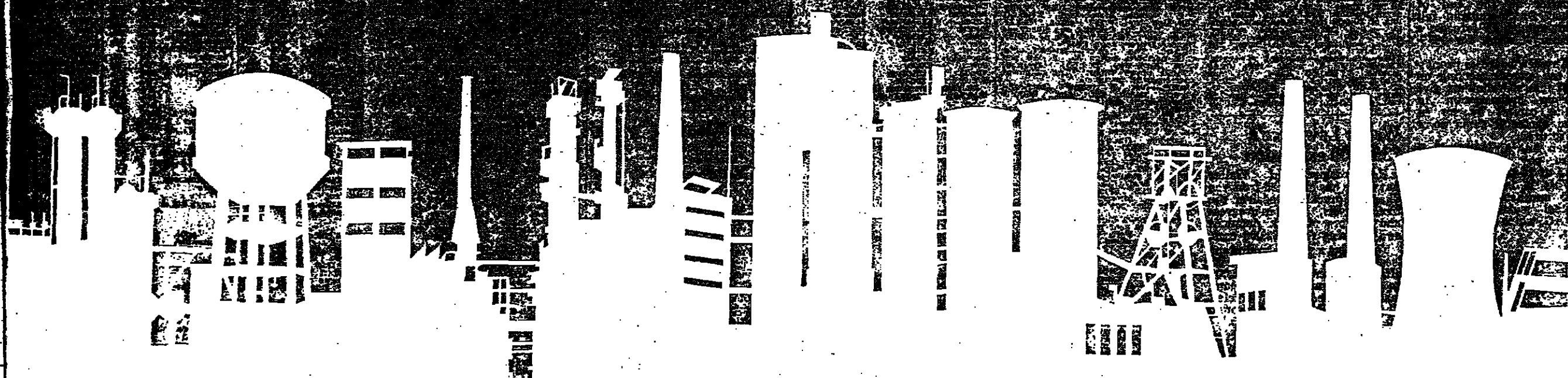
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To meet the need for a reference book on Capital Transfer Tax which not only goes beyond an introductory or outline level, but which is also always up to date, Butterworths are publishing a major new work called Capital Taxes Encyclopedia. In it a team of specialist contributors will deal with every aspect of



"Midland Bank traditionally has close relationships with industry and we are well aware of the need to support the businesses upon which the prosperity of the country depends"



Extracts from the Statement of The Right Hon. Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, PC, GCB, MVO, Chairman of Midland Bank Limited.

### Group results

Group profit before tax for 1975 was £82.4 million as compared with £96.2 million in 1974. After providing for taxation, minority interests and extraordinary items, the net profit attributable to shareholders was £32.7 million as against £42.2 million for the preceding year.

Several factors have contributed to the lower level of profit this year.

All the companies in the Group have felt the impact of increasing costs, which rose steeply following the high rate of inflation. The total increase in the running expenses of Midland Bank itself was about 30 per cent and we have not recovered any part of the additional costs by increasing our charges for services provided to customers. However, we have now made successful application to the Price Commission to increase certain fees for services which have been running well below cost.

The clearing bank operations of the Group have also been affected by the lower average level of interest rates and the slack demand for bank lending.

Further substantial provisions have been made against possible bad debts.

The support operation for secondary banks continued during 1975. The provisions mentioned above include those raised in this connection.

The directors have declared a second interim dividend of 7.278p per share making a total for the year of 11.478p per share, the maximum permitted.

### Capital

Shareholders' funds, which amounted to £474 million at the end of 1974, increased to £563 million at 31 December 1975.

The need for an adequate capital base has been emphasised in the past when the volume of the Bank's business was growing at a high rate. In those circumstances a large part of the resulting profit had to be retained in order that a proper relationship be kept between the capital base of the Bank

and the volume of business it supported.

The authorised capital of the Bank was increased in March to £150 million and immediately following this a successful rights issue of 28,627,741 new shares was made at 185p per share.

In November the opportunity was taken to raise further loan capital by the issue of Floating Rate Capital Notes maturing in 1982 to the value of US \$50 million. The issue was well received and a second issue of US \$50 million of Notes, also with a seven-year life, was made in February 1976. This met with an even more encouraging response from major financial centres all over the world.

The purchase of just over 7 million shares increased our stake in Standard Chartered Bank from about 4 per cent to almost 16 per cent. The investment strengthens and complements our international banking connections and I am pleased to record that the Board of Standard Chartered Bank welcome the closer association as much as we do.

### The economic background

The retrenchment and readjustments which were the dominant characteristics of 1975 were felt by the banks in the United Kingdom no less sharply than by the rest of the economy which they serve. Recession, inflation, and their consequences all combined to produce an environment which was not conducive to maintaining the growth of the business of the Midland Bank Group at the level experienced over recent years.

The level of economic activity declined sharply with the fall in private industrial investment which reflected a general tendency to conserve cash resources in the light of doubts about the future.

As a result, there was a sharp reduction in the growth of bank lending to individuals, companies and financial institutions. Indeed, lending in sterling to the private sector actually fell, for the first time in about twenty years.

### Branch operations

The domestic banking operations conducted through the branches of the Bank contribute the major share of Group profit and stem from the use of the payments transmission services. This has again shown a dramatic increase. We estimate that in all some £16,000 million worth of notes and coin passed across Midland Bank branch counters during the course of 1975, an increase of more than 15 per cent over 1974. This is an expensive service but we have hitherto been precluded by the Price Code from increasing our charges, which at present in no way cover the costs involved.

It is a reflection of the valuable service provided by the branch network, and the confidence of the public in the clearing banks generally, that the balances lodged on current accounts continued to grow during the year at a satisfactory rate.

By increasing our lending to the public sector and by developing our business in currencies other than sterling, the total advances of the Bank expanded by 8.7 per cent to £4,690 million at the year end. Advances by the Midland Group totalled £5,041 million at 31 December 1975 as compared with £5,579 million at the end of 1974.

### Industrial finance

Midland Bank traditionally has close relationships with industry and we are well aware of the need to support the businesses upon which the prosperity of the country depends.

The overdraft for working capital purposes is well known, but we are also particularly conscious that, if the economy is to move out of the present recession, loan finance for industrial investment should be readily available. We have developed over recent years considerable expertise in the provision of medium term loans for this purpose and we are confident that we have the capacity to meet the needs of our industrial customers, subject

to any limitations which may be imposed upon us by the authorities. Indeed, even during 1975 our commitments to medium term loans for all borrowers have increased considerably, and the lending under sterling facilities made available, in one form or another, over a term of years now accounts for about one-third of the Bank's total advances.

Another example of the importance we attach to our industrial and commercial customers has been the establishment of a Corporate Finance Division within the Bank to ensure that the wide variety of facilities available within the Group is properly deployed to meet the increasingly complex financial requirements of the business community.

### Broad international base

An important feature of our international business in 1975 was the continued development of International Division. The Division makes an increasingly significant contribution to the profits of the Group, as well as providing a broad international base to our earnings. The further development of that base, both in its quality and geographical spread, is an important part of our thinking about the future of the Group.

Many of the other companies in the Group have a significant proportion of international business—in particular, Samuel Montagu, Bland Payne and Thomas Cook—and we seek to ensure the fullest possible co-operation between all parts of the Group in the international, as well as the national, field.

The Group now has a majority interest in London American Finance Corporation Limited (LAFCO), which has built up over recent years great experience in the whole spectrum of specialised export financing.

Relationships with our fellow-members of European Banks International Company (EBIC) continue to be developed, particularly in respect of the jointly-owned banking investments around the world. These have all experienced very satisfactory growth in the difficult conditions of 1975.

### Staff

Since joining the Midland Bank Group, I have come to admire greatly the professionalism and dedication of the staff and I am particularly pleased therefore, in my first Statement as Chairman and on behalf of the Board, to record our acknowledgement and appreciation of the indispensable contribution made by the 62,000 men and women who work in the Group.

I am personally in favour of the maximum practical participation of all levels of staff in the development of our activities and if it becomes apparent that our employees consider some formalised staff participation scheme desirable, we are ready and willing to respond.

### The outlook

There are a number of signs which encourage the belief that the economic decline of 1975 has come to an end and that a mood of greater confidence is emerging. This does not mean that recovery is imminent in the United Kingdom nor that it will be rapid when it does appear. Nevertheless, I expect that the general level of economic activity at home and abroad, on which so much of our business depends, will begin to increase during the course of the year.

When it does, the Midland Bank Group has the capacity and the capability to assist in the recovery of the economy as a whole, and I am confident that within a more favourable economic climate the Group can resume its own profitable development and growth. In the meantime we have to recognise that costs will continue to rise and must inevitably restrict our ability to improve Group profitability significantly during 1976.

If you would like a copy of Lord Armstrong's full Statement and the Report for 1975, please write to: The Secretary, Midland Bank Limited, Head Office, 27 Poultry, London EC2P 2BX. The Annual General Meeting will be held at The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Abchurch Lane, London, EC4A 3DF on 7 April at 11 a.m.



# Midland Bank Group

## Principal Trading companies

Midland Bank Limited; Clydesdale Bank Limited; Clydesdale Bank Finance Corporation Limited; Clydesdale Bank Insurance Services Limited; Scottish Computer Services Limited; Northern Bank Limited; Northern Bank Development Corporation Limited; Northern Bank Executor and Trustee Company Limited; Northern Bank Trust Corporation Limited; Midland Bank Trust Company Limited; Midland Bank Group Unit Trust Managers Limited; Midland Bank Finance Corporation Limited; Forward Trust Limited; Midland Montagu Leasing Limited; Griffin Factors Limited; Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Jersey) Limited; Midland Bank Trust Corporation (Guernsey) Limited; Midland Bank Insurance Services Limited; The Thomas Cook Group Limited; Thomas Cook Limited; Thomas Cook Overseas Limited; Thomas Cook Bankers Limited; Samuel Montagu & Co. Limited (Incorporating Drayton); Drayton Montagu Portfolio Management Limited; Guyverzeller Zumont Bank AG; Northern Bank Finance Corporation Limited; Midland Montagu Industrial Finance Limited; Jersey International Bank of Commerce Limited; Bland Payne Holdings Limited; Bland Payne Limited; Bland Payne Reinsurance Brokers Limited; Bland Payne (UK) Limited; Southern Marine & Aviation Underwriters Inc.; Bland Payne Australia Limited; London American Finance Corporation Limited; British Overseas Engineering & Credit Company Limited; Drake (UK) International Limited; Drake America Corporation; Export Credit Corporation.



## FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Aug Thyssen  
weathers  
slump and  
cheers up

From Peter Norman

Bonn, March 11

August Thyssen-Hütte AG, continental Europe's largest steel producer, came through last year's deep recession "relatively well". Since the beginning of 1976 it has experienced a slight rise in orders, volume sales and turnover.

Group net profits fell to DM243m in the year to September 30 last from DM340m in 1973-74. After eliminating special factors, gross profits before tax fell even more sharply to DM469m from DM1,193m.

Thyssen's chief executive Dr Dieter Spethmann told a press conference that the group's takeover of the Rhein Stahl En-

## Overseas

neering concern in 1974 had helped Thyssen through the steel slump by diversifying its production range.

Although the current business year had begun in difficult circumstances and the Thyssen concern made a loss in the quarter to the end of December, Dr Spethmann felt confident enough to forecast a "satisfactory" result for 1975-76.

The Thyssen board is proposing to the annual meeting on April 30 that shareholders give the group authorization to raise the capital by up to DM300m marks at some point in the future.

Thyssen has already said it plans to pay an unchanged dividend of 14 per cent for last year. This is in marked contrast to another leading German steel maker, Klockner Werke AG, which is omitting a pay out.

First-half progress  
at Tollgate Holdings

Further progress is the news from Tollgate Holdings of South Africa. After record profits in 1974-75, pre-tax profits rose from R242m to R397m (about £34.5m) in the six months to December 31.

The board reports continued improvement in the passenger transport division. Earnings from other group activities rose "satisfactorily".

If there are no further major increases in fuel prices and other materials, profits should be "similar" for the rest of the year.

BASF US sales  
and profits up in 1975

BASF Wyandotte Corporation in the United States, a 100 per cent subsidiary of BASF, increased its sales to (United States) \$529.8m in 1975. This is 14 per cent higher than for 1974. Profit before taxes rose from \$32.7m to \$49.3m. At the end of 1975 the number of employees was 5,665.

In 1975, BASF Wyandotte invested \$60.5m. One of the projects concerned was the creation of a butadiene plant with an annual capacity of 75,000 tons. In addition, a start was made to expanding the output of mercury cathode cells. A plant for transparent iron oxides was completed.

Total sales for the BASF group in the United States in 1975 was \$730.4m. This includes the share received from the Dow Badische company, a 50 per cent subsidiary.

## US Industries

US Industries Incorporated said that practically all its major operations are showing earnings gains. They vary from moderate to substantial.

The company said its financial credit and construction operations had "much smaller" loss in 1975 than in 1974, and that its health spa operations returned to profitability last year. In 1975, US Industries said, its debt was reduced by \$92m—Reuter.

Bank Base  
Rates

| Bank              | Rate   |
|-------------------|--------|
| Barclays Bank     | 9 1/2  |
| First London Secs | 9 1/2  |
| C. Hoare & Co     | 9 1/2  |
| Lloyds Bank       | 9 1/2  |
| Midland Bank      | 9 1/2  |
| Nat Westminster   | 9 1/2  |
| Rossminster ACC   | 9 1/2  |
| Shenley Trust     | 11 1/2 |
| Williams & Glyn's | 9 1/2  |

\* 7-day deposits on sums of £10,000 or over; 5% up to £25,000, 6% over £25,000, 6 1/2% over £50,000, 6 3/4% over £100,000.

Source: Bank of England, London.

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## Commodities

Metal prices fall  
back on LME

Heavy profit-taking, the steady trend of sterling and some doubt about whether the minimum lending rate might be increased today combined to send metal prices down on the London Metal Exchange yesterday.

Three months copper wire bars came back below the psychological £700-a-tonne mark to close at £693.75 while cash wire bars fell £9.75 to £675.

Although the Straits price of tin continued its climb, rising \$5 from the Wednesday level of \$31,070, London standard cash tin edged up £2.50 to £500. Three months fell back £56 to £3,533.

Lead closed with losses of £1.50 for cash and £1.65 for three months despite pre-market steady prices induced by a price increase by several United States producers. Zinc finished £3.50 down for both cash and three months.

Silver dropped by 3p to 4p per tray ounce, reflecting the general rise in metals.

Source: Bank of England, London.

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Foreign  
Exchanges

International currency unrest intensified on the exchanges yesterday, placing the European dollar group currencies under strain and forcing heavy intervention by leading central banks.

The French franc broke outside the limits of the float system in late trading, after being pinned at its floor intervention point against the mark for most of the day.

Sterling rallied 210 points against the dollar, closing at \$1.9355 after further support from the Bank of England.

The decline in sterling continued to spur widespread movements on funds amid gathering speculation that a general European currency reform may be imminent.

Yesterday's Bank of England operations, mostly concentrated in the \$1.51 area, brought total support for sterling by the bank to about \$700m since unrest began just over a week ago.

This is the most intense drain on the Bank's monetary reserves since \$2,500m was lost in the unsuccessful attempt to keep sterling in the European joint float in June 1972.

The pound's effective rate improved from 33.8 to 33.3 per cent.

Gold fell 25 cents an ounce, to \$153.75.

Source: Bank of England, London.

Source: Bank of England, London.

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## Discount market

Fresh credit was available in discount markets and the day ran to modest surplus. Nevertheless, patchy conditions in the afternoon caused one or two houses to turn to the Bank of England for help.

The Bank readily forthcoming via small-scale purchases of Treasury bills directly from the houses concerned.

In the event, these funds flowed out freely towards the Bank, and rates came right down to 3 to 4 1/2 per cent for final balances.

Nervous conditions at the outset had caused some lenders to ask as high as 8 1/2 to 9 per cent, but as soon as the signs pointed to surplus quite early in the afternoon, rates started to fall away.

They were down to 7 1/2 per cent by lunchtime.

Source: Bank of England, London.

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Source:



**Chartered Surveyors  
Planning Consultants**

# Drivers Jonas

**DRIVERS**  
**JONAS**

## Stock Exchange Prices

## Nervous session

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 8. Dealings End, Mar 19. § Contango Day, Mar 22. Settlement Day, Mar 30.  
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

هكذا آمن الرسول

**Bovis**  
Bovis Construction Limited

## Building without battling

**Phone: 01-422 3488**

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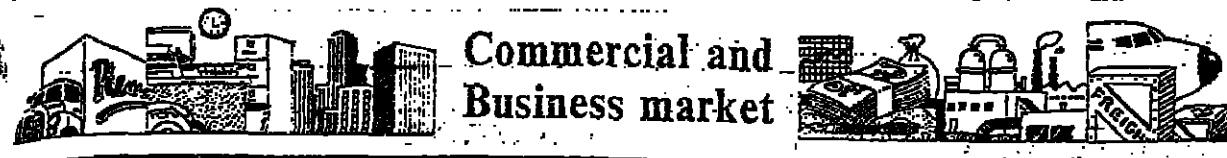












## Commercial and Business market

### Contracts & Tenders

## REPUBLIC OF ZAIRE

Department of Public Works and Regional Development  
Road Construction Section

### Invitation to Tender No. 0337/76/TPAT/OR

International invitation to tender for the supply of road equipment and motor vehicles

- The quantities requested in the previous invitation are modified as follows:—
- Lot 1: 28 levellers instead of 21
  - Lot 2: 9 bulldozers instead of 6 and 1 excavator (unchanged)
  - Lot 3: 13 loaders instead of 10
  - Lot 4: 6 mobile lubricating units instead of 4
  - Lot 5: 82 tip lorries instead of 62
  - 14 non-tip lorries instead of 10
  - 15 water tankers instead of 10
  - 6 diesel-oil tankers instead of 4
  - Lot 6: 31 pick-ups instead of 22
  - Lot 7: 5 workshop wagons instead of 4
  - Lot 8: 13 site caravans instead of 11

Closing Date for Applications:—  
Applications must be at the Office of the Section for Road Construction by 10 am local time on 5th May 1976 at the latest.

Opening of Applications:—  
Applications will be opened at a public meeting in the Conference Hall at the Head Office of the Section for Road Construction Avenue Ex-Deschamps, Kinshasa-Combe, 5th May 1976 at exactly 10 am local time.  
All other stipulations made in the previous invitation to tender remain unchanged.

ROAD CONSTRUCTION SECTION

### Business Notices

#### A BENEFICIAL INVESTMENT

"How many times in any one year do you see a company..."

25th March, 1976

From the Recruitment Commission

COMPUTER STAFF

LEGAL STAFF

FINANCIAL STAFF

GRADUATES

SCHOOL LEAVES

ENGINEERS

PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL

SCIENTISTS AND

TECHNOLOGISTS

BANKING AND INSURANCE

OVERSEAS APPOINTMENTS

SURVEYORS AND

ARCHITECTS

SALES AND MARKETING

APPOINTMENTS

Whatever vacancies you foresee...

What better way than to...

Find out more details...

The Times Recruitment Team

Manchester 061-834 1234

### EDUCATIONAL

King Alfred's College, Winchester

SUMMER SCHOOL

ENGLISH MEDIEVAL STUDIES

11th July-1st August, 1976

Full Board Residence and

Supper, 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m.

English medieval studies

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### MOTOR CARS

LANCIA IN LONDON

Deluxe Lancia Dealers

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### FLAT SHARING

QUINN'S GATE, S.W.7



